

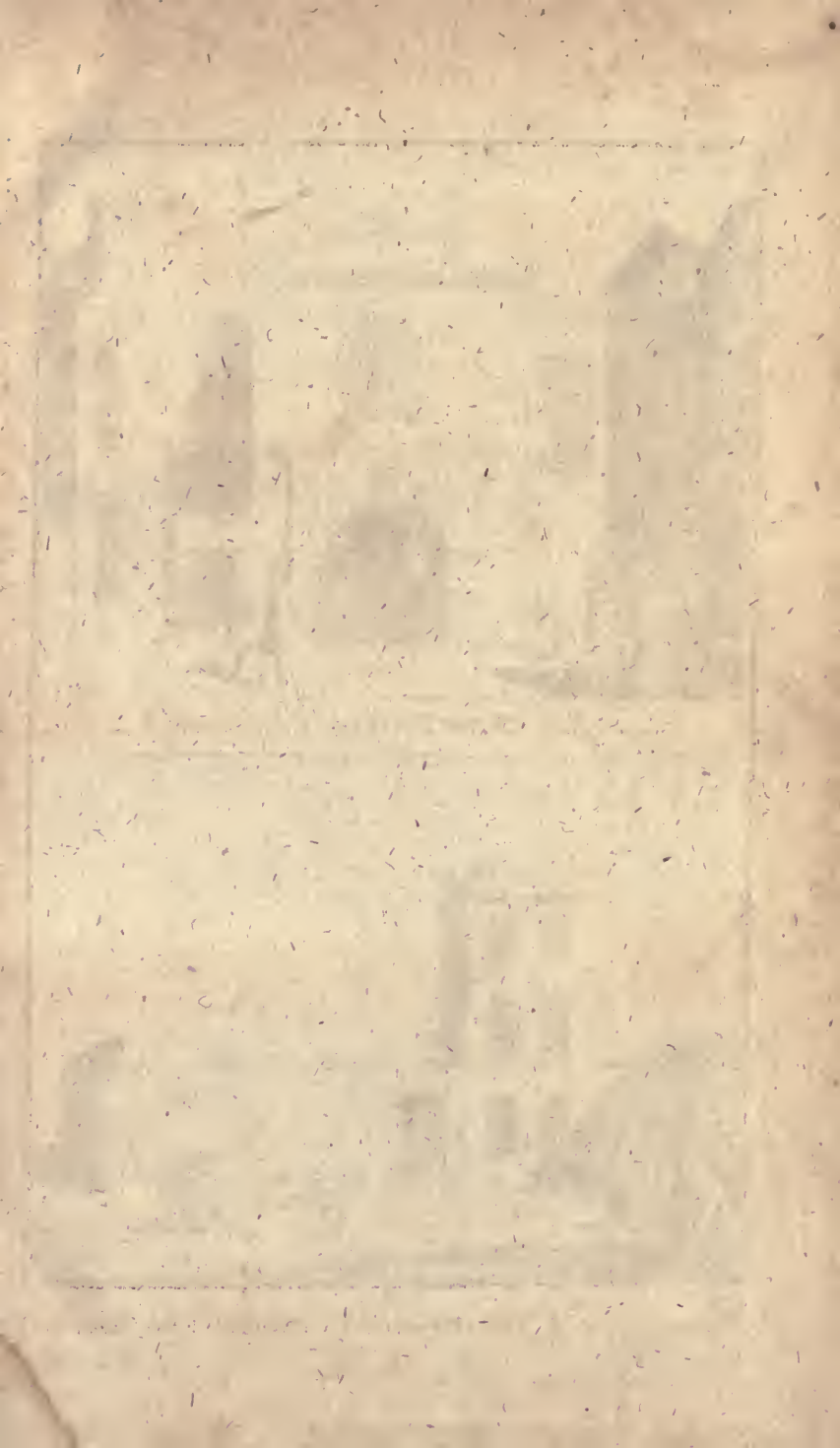
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PHIL LINDSAY
HIS BOOK



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View of the NEW-PRISON, (Newgate).



Representation of TOTHILFIELDS BRIDEWELL, Westminster.

THE
NEW AND COMPLETE
Newgate Calendar;
OR,
VILLANY DISPLAYED
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.

Containing New and Authentic Accounts of all the Lives, Adventures, Exploits, Trials, Executions, and Last Dying Speeches, Confessions, (as well as Letters to their Relatives never before published) of the most notorious Malefactors and others of both Sexes and all Denominations, who have suffered Death, and other exemplary Punishments, for

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A victim of Laws they have broke!
Of Vice, the Beginning is frequently small,
But how fatal at length is the Stroke!
The contents of these Volumes will amply display
The Steps which Offenders have trod:
Learn hence, then, each Reader, the Laws to obey
Of your Country, your King, and your God.

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L O N D O N:

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T H E

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR:

O R,

MALEFACTOR'S BLOODY REGISTER.

Narrative of the Parentage, Trial, and Execution of the notorious LEWIS HOUSSART, who was hanged at Swan Alley, Shoreditch for Murder.

THIS malefactor was born at Sedan in France; but his parents being Protestants, quitted that kingdom, in consequence of an edict of Lewis the fourteenth, and settled in Dutch Brabant.

Young Houffart's father placed him with a barber-surgeon at Amsterdam, with whom he lived a considerable time, and then served as a surgeon on board a Dutch ship, which he quitted through want of health, and came to England.

He had been a considerable time in this country when he became acquainted with Anne Rondeau, whom he married at the French Church in Spitalfields. Having lived about three years with his wife at Hoxton, he left her in disgust, and going into the city, passed for a single man, working as a barber and hair-dresser; and getting acquainted with a Mrs. Hern of Princes-street,

4 NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR.

Lothbury, he married her at St. Antholin's church.

No sooner was the ceremony performed, than the company went to drink some wine at an adjacent tavern, when the parish clerk observed that Houffart changed countenance, and some of the company asked him if he repented his bargain; to which he answered in the negative.

It appears as if, even at this time, he had come to a resolution of murdering his first wife; for he had not been long married before his second charging him with a former matrimonial connection, he desired her to be easy, for she would be convinced, in a short time, that he had no other wife but herself.

During this interval his first wife lived with her mother in Swan-Alley, Shoreditch, and Mrs. Houffart being in an ill state of health, her husband called on her about a fortnight before the perpetration of the murder, and told her he would bring her something to relieve her; and the next day he gave her a medicine that had the appearance of conserve of roses, which threw her into such severe convulsion fits, that her life was despaired of for some hours; but at length she recovered.

This scheme failing, Houffart determined to murder her, to effect which, and conceal the crime, he took the following method.

Having directed his second wife to meet him at the Turk's Head in Bishopsgate-street, she went thither and waited for him. In the mean time he dressed himself in a white great coat, and walked out with a cane in his hand, and a sword by his side. Going to the end of Swan-Alley, Shoreditch, he gave a boy a penny to go into the lodgings of his first wife, and her mother,
Mrs.

Mrs. Rondeau, and tell the old woman that a gentleman wanted to speak with her at the Black Dog in Bishopsgate-street.

Mrs. Rondeau saying she would wait on the gentleman, Houffart hid himself in the alley till the boy told him she was gone out, and then went to his wife's room, and cut her throat with a razor, and, thus murdered, she was found by her mother on her return from the Black-Dog, after enquiring in vain for the gentleman who was said to be waiting for her.

In the interim Houffart went to his other wife at the Turk's Head, where he appeared much dejected, and had some sudden starts of passion. The landlady of the house, who was at supper with his wife, expressing some surprize at his behaviour, he became more calm, and said he was only uneasy lest her husband should return, and find him so meanly dressed: and soon after this Houffart and his wife went home.

Mrs. Rondeau having found her daughter murdered, as above-mentioned, went to her son, to whom she communicated the affair: and he having heard that Houffart lodged in Lothbury, took a constable, went thither, and said he was come to apprehend him on suspicion of having murdered his wife; on which he laughed loudly, and asked if any thing in his looks indicated that he could be guilty of such a crime.

Being committed to Newgate, he was tried at the next sessions at the Old-Bailey, but acquitted, for want of the evidence of the boy, who was not found till a considerable time afterwards: but the court ordered the prisoner to remain in Newgate to take his trial for bigamy.

In consequence hereof he was indicted at the next sessions, when full proof was brought of
both

6 NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR.

both his marriages; but an objection was made by his council, on a point of law, "Whether he could be guilty of bigamy, as the first marriage was performed by a French minister, and he was only once married according to the form of the church of England." On this the jury brought in a special verdict, subject to the determination of the twelve judges.

While Houffart lay in Newgate, awaiting this solemn award, the boy whom he had employed to go into the house of Mrs. Rondeau, and who had hitherto kept secret the whole transaction, being in conversation with his mother, asked her what would become of the boy if he should be apprehended. The mother told him he would be only sworn to tell the truth: "Why (said he) I thought they would hang him:" but the mother satisfying him that there was no danger of any such consequence, and talking farther with him on the subject, he confessed that he was the boy who went with the message.

Hereupon he was taken to Solomon Rondeau, brother of the deceased, who went with him to a justice of peace, and the latter ordered a constable to attend him to Newgate, where he fixed on Houffart as the person who had employed him in the manner above mentioned.

In consequence hereof Solomon Rondeau lodged an appeal against the prisoner; but it appearing that there was some bad Latin in it, no proceedings could be had thereon; and therefore another appeal was lodged the next sessions, when the prisoner urging that he was not prepared for his trial, he was yet indulged till a subsequent sessions.

The appeal was brought in the name of Solomon Rondeau, as heir to the deceased; and the
names

names of John Doe and Richard Roe were entered in the common form, as pledges to prosecute.

When the trial came on, the council for the prisoner stated the following pleas, in bar to, and abatement of, the proceedings.

I. That besides the appeal, to which he now pleaded, there was another yet depending, and undetermined.

II. A misnomer, because his name was not Lewis, but Louis.

III. That the addition of labourer was wrong, for he was not a labourer, but a barber-surgeon.

IV. That there were no such persons as John Doe, and Richard Roe, who were mentioned as pledges in the appeal.

V. That Henry Rondeau was the brother and heir to the deceased; that Solomon Rondeau was not her brother and heir, and therefore was not the proper appellant; and

VI. That the defendant was not guilty of the facts charged in the appeal.

The council for the appellant replied to these several pleas in substance as follows:

To the first, that the former appeal was already quashed, and therefore could not be depending and undetermined.

To the second, that it appeared that the prisoner had owned the name of Lewis, by pleading to it on two indictments, the one for bigamy, and the other for murder; and his hand-writing was produced, in which he had spelt his name Lewis; and it was likewise proved that he had usually answered to that name.

To

8 NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR.

To the third, it was urged that, on the two former indictments, he had pleaded to the addition of labourer; and a person swore that the prisoner worked as a journeyman or servant, and did not carry on his business as a master.

To the fourth it was urged that there were two such persons in Middlesex as John Doe and Richard Roe, the one a weaver, and the other a soldier; and this fact was sworn to.

In answer to the fifth, Ann Rondeau, the mother of the deceased, swore that she had no children except the murdered party, and Solomon Rondeau, the appellant: that Solomon was brother and heir to the deceased, which Henry Rondeau was not, being only the son of her husband by a former wife.

With regard to the last article, respecting his being not guilty, that was left to be determined by the opinion of the jury.

Hereupon the trial was brought on, and the same witnesses being examined as on the former trial, to which that of the boy was added, the jury determined that the prisoner was guilty, in consequence of which he received sentence of death.

His behaviour after conviction was very improper for one in his melancholy situation; and, as the day of execution drew nearer, he became still more thoughtless, and more hardened, and frequently declared that he would cut his own throat, as the jury had found him guilty of cutting that of his wife.

His behaviour at the place of execution was equally hardened. He refused to pray with the Ordinary of Newgate, and another clergyman, who kindly attended to assist him in his devotions.

This

This malefactor suffered on the 7th of December, 1724, opposite the end of Swan-Alley, in Shoreditch.

We see in the case of this man the artful methods made use of by lawyers to screen the guilty from the just punishment due to the atrociousness of their crimes. There could be no doubt but that Houssart was a murderer; yet pleas were urged, that he ought not to be convicted, on account of a trifling misspelling of his name, and other such ridiculous circumstances.

We cannot but wish, for the honour of the laws of England, that we had fewer lawyers, and that more of those of the profession would conduct themselves as they ought; as men, and as Christians. It is a disgrace to the honourable character of a counsellor, that so many of that name may be found, who, in the common phrase will endeavour to prove that black is white; and that the prevailing argument of a few additional guineas will induce them to wrest the laws, to the frequent punishment of innocence, and the triumph of guilt. But it is in vain to declaim on this subject; since men who can be base enough to take the paltry bribe from the highest bidder, will not be convinced of the impropriety of their conduct by any arguments we can use.

The crime of the malefactor in question is of the first magnitude:—the murder was of the most unprovoked kind; and we see by the agitations of his mind, immediately after the second marriage, that the intentional murderer himself was wretched. So must every one be whose heart is corrupt enough wilfully to depart from the laws of God, and violate all the sacred rights of humanity.

Deſtruction, anguiſh, and remorse muſt ever be the conſequence of determined villainy. Well might the pſalmiſt exclaim, “ The workers of iniquity are fallen; they are caſt down, and ſhall not be able to riſe.”

Particulars reſpecting ROBERT HARPHAM, who was hanged at Tyburn for Coining.

THIS offender lived in Weſtmiſter, where he carried on the buſineſs of a carpenter for a conſiderable time with ſome ſucceſs; but at length had the miſfortune to become a bankrupt, after which he appears to have turned his thoughts to a very diſhoneſt way of acquiring money.

Having engaged the aſſiſtance of one Fordham, he hired a houſe near St. Paul's Church-yard, and pretending to be a button-maker, he put up an iron preſs, with which he uſed to coin money, and Fordham, having aided him in the coinage, put off the counterfeit money thus made.

From hence they removed to Roſemary-lane, and there carried on the ſame dangerous buſineſs for ſome time, till the neighbours obſerving that great quantities of charcoal were brought in, and the utmoſt precaution taken to keep the door ſhut, began to form very unfavourable ſuſpicions: on which Harpham took a cellar, in Paradise-row, near Hanover-square, to which the implements were removed.

While in this ſituation Harpham invited a gentleman to dine with him; and was imprudent enough to take him into his workſhop, and ſhew him his tools. The gentleman wondering for what purpoſe they could be intended, Harpham ſaid,

said, “ In this press I can make buttons ; but I
 “ will shew you something else that is a greater
 “ rarity.” Having said this, he struck a piece
 of metal, which instantly bore the resemblance of
 a half guinea, except the milling on the edge ;
 but another instrument being applied to it, the
 half guinea was completed.

Our coiners now removed to Jermyn-street, St.
 James’s, where Harpham took an empty cellar,
 and, on the old pretence of button-making, gave
 orders to a bricklayer to put up a grate. The
 bricklayer remarking what a quantity of coals the
 grate would consume, the other said it was so
 much the better, for it was calculated to dress
 victuals either by baking, stewing, roasting, or
 boiling. Harpham kept the key of this cellar,
 permitting no one to enter but Fordham ; and
 once in three weeks he had a quantity of char-
 coal and sea-coal put in through the window.

The landlord of the place suspecting some ille-
 gal proceeding, desired his neighbours to watch
 the parties ; in consequence of which Harpham
 was soon discovered in the attempt to put off
 counterfeit money ; on which he and his assistant
 were apprehended and committed to Newgate ;
 and Fordham being admitted an evidence, the
 other was convicted, and received sentence of
 death.

His behaviour immediately after his commit-
 ment, was unusually serious ; for as he was not
 weak enough to flatter himself with unreasonable
 hopes of life, so he began to make an early pre-
 paration for the important change that awaited
 him. He procured religious books, and exer-
 cised himself in the offices of devotion, in a very
 earnest manner. He likewise resolved to eat no
 more food than should be absolutely necessary for

the support of nature; and in this he persevered from the time of his conviction to the day of his death. He desired a person to awake him at three o'clock in the morning, and continued his devotions till midnight.

While he was thus properly employed, a person hinted to him that he might entertain some hope of a reprieve; but he said he did not regard a reprieve, on his own account; for that slavery, in a foreign country, was as much to be dreaded as death. Some questions being asked him respecting any accomplices he might have, he declined charging any particular person with a crime, but gave the Ordinary of Newgate a list of the names of some people whom he desired him to send to, requesting that they would reform the error of their ways.

The sacrament was administered to him in private on the day before his execution, at his own request, as he said he could not attend the duties of religion, while exposed to the observation of a curious multitude.

He was excuted at Tyburn on the 24th of May, 1725, after exhorting the persons present to beware of covetousness, and be content in the station allotted them by Providence.

To the particulars above-recited little need be added by way of remark or instruction. The man who is wicked and foolish enough to be guilty of coining, should consider that he is deliberately taking away his own life, in the very act of robbing the poor: for counterfeit money, though it pass for a while among persons who have considerable sums to pay away, will ultimately remain in the hands of some mechanic or labourer, who has perhaps not another piece in the world but the base metal which he has taken.

Let





Jonathan Wild pelted by the Mob on his way to Tyburn.

JONATHAN WILD—*for various Offences.* 13

Let us figure to ourselves, for a moment, the distress that such a person must endure; aggravated, possibly, by the hungry calls of a wife and numerous family; and then let any man lay his hand on his heart, and ask himself, how few crimes there can be more atrocious than that of coining!

Narrative of the Character, Life, and Trial of the notorious JONATHAN WILD; including genuine Memoirs of his numerous Accomplices, and their several Contrivances.

WOOLVERHAMPTON in Staffordshire gave birth to Jonathan Wild about the year 1682. He was the eldest son of his parents, who at a proper age put him to a day-school, which he continued to attend till he had gained a sufficient knowledge in reading, writing, and accounts, to qualify him for business. His father intended to bring him up to his own trade; but changed that design, and at about the age of fifteen apprenticed him for seven years to a buckle-maker in Birmingham. Upon the expiration of his apprenticeship he returned to Woolverhampton, where he married a young woman of good character, and gained a tolerable livelihood by following his business as a journeyman.

He had been married about two years, in which time his wife had bore to him a son, when he formed the resolution of visiting London, and very soon after deserted his wife and child, and set out for the metropolis, where he got into employment, and maintained himself by his trade. Being of an extravagant disposition, many months had not elapsed after his arrival in London, when he

he was arrested and thrown into Wood-street Compter, where he remained a prisoner for debt upwards four years. In a pamphlet which he published, and which we shall more particularly mention hereafter, he says, that during his imprisonment "it was impossible but he must in some measure be let into the secrets of the criminals there under confinement; and particularly Mr. Hitchen's management."

During his residence in the Compter, Wild assiduously cultivated the acquaintance of the criminals who were his fellow-prisoners, and attended to their accounts of the exploits in which they had been engaged with singular satisfaction. In this prison was a woman named Mary Milliner, who had long been considered as one of the most notorious pickpockets and abandoned prostitutes on the town. After having escaped the punishment due to the variety of felonies of which she had been guilty she was put under confinement for debt. A strict intimacy was contracted between Wild and this woman; but whether a criminal intercourse subsisted between them while they remained in the Compter we cannot affirm; but, considering the character of the parties, there will appear but little reason to suppose they adhered to the rules of chastity. They had no sooner obtained their freedom than they lived under the denomination of man and wife. By their iniquitous practices they soon obtained a sum of money, which enabled them to open a little public-house in Cock-Alley, facing Cripplegate-Church.

Milliner being personally acquainted with most of the notorious characters by whom London and its environs were infested, and perfectly conversant as to the manner of their proceedings, she was considered by Wild as a most useful companion;

panion; and indeed she very materially contributed towards rendering him one of the most accomplished characters in the arts of villainy.

Wild industriously penetrated into the secrets of felons of every denomination, who resorted in great numbers to his house, in order to dispose of their booties; and they looked upon him with a kind of awe; for, being acquainted with their proceedings, they were conscious that their lives were continually in his power.

Wild was at little difficulty to dispose of the articles brought to him by thieves, at something less than the real value; for at this period no law existed for the punishment of the receivers of stolen goods: but the evil encreasing to so enormous a degree, it was deemed expedient by the legislature to frame a law for its suppression. An act therefore was passed consigning such as should be convicted of receiving goods, knowing them to have been stolen, to transportation for the space of fourteen years.

Wild's practices were considerably interrupted by the above-mentioned law; to obviate the intention of which, however, he suggested the following plan: he called a meeting of all the thieves whom he knew, and observed to them, that if they carried their booties to such of the pawnbrokers who were known to be not much troubled with scruples of conscience, they would scarcely advance on the property one fourth of its real value; and that if they were offered to strangers either for sale, or by way of deposit, it was a chance of ten to one but the parties were rendered amenable to the laws. He observed that the most industrious thieves were now scarcely able to obtain a livelihood; and that they must either submit to be half-starved, or be in great
and

and continual danger of Tyburn. He informed them that he had devised a plan for removing the inconveniences under which they laboured, recommending them to follow his advice, and to behave towards him with honor. He then proposed that when they had gained any booty they should deliver it to him, instead of carrying it to the pawnbroker, saying he would restore the goods to the owners, by which means greater sums would be raised than by depositing them with the pawnbrokers, while the thieves would be perfectly secure from detection.

This proposal was received with general approbation, and it was resolved to carry it into immediate execution. All the stolen effects were to be given into the possession of Wild, who soon appointed convenient places wherein they were to be deposited, judging that it would be imprudence to have them left at his own house.

The infamous plan being thus concerted, it was the business of Wild to apply to persons who had been robbed, pretending to be greatly concerned at their misfortunes, saying that some suspected property had been stopped by a very honest man, a broker, with whom he was acquainted, and that if their goods happened to be in the hands of his friend, restitution should be made. But he failed not to plead that the broker might be rewarded for his trouble and disinterestedness, and to use every argument in his power for exacting a promise that no disagreeable consequences should ensue to his friend, who had imprudently neglected to apprehend the supposed thieves.

Happy in the prospect of regaining their property without the trouble and expence necessarily attending prosecutions, people generally approved the conduct of Wild, and sometimes rewarded him

him even with one half of the real value of the goods restored. Persons who had been robbed; however, were not always satisfied with Wild's declaration; and sometimes they questioned him particularly as to the manner of their goods being discovered. On these occasions he pretended to be offended that his honor should be disputed, saying that his motive was to afford all the service in his power to the injured party, whose goods he imagined might possibly be those stopped by his friend; but since his good intentions were received in so ungracious a manner, and himself interrogated respecting the robbers, he had nothing further to say on the subject, but must take his leave; adding that his name was Jonathan Wild, and that he was every day to be found at his house in Cock-Alley, Cripplegate. This affectation of resentment seldom failed to possess the people who had been robbed with a more favourable opinion of his principles; and the suspicion of his character being removed, he had an opportunity of advancing his demands.

Wild received no gratuity from the owners of stolen goods, but deducted his profit from the money which was to be paid the broker: thus did he amass considerable sums without danger of prosecution; for his offences came under the description of no law then existing. For several years he preserved a tolerably fair character, so consummate was the art he employed in the management of all his schemes.

Wild's business greatly encreasing and his name becoming exceedingly popular, he altered his mode of proceeding. Instead of applying to persons who had been robbed, he opened an office, to which great numbers resorted in hopes of

recovering their effects. He made a great parade in his business, and assumed a consequence that enabled him more effectually to impose on the public. When persons came to his office they were informed that they must each pay a crown in consideration of receiving his advice. This ceremony being dispatched, he entered in his book, the names and places of abode of the parties, with all the particulars which they could communicate respecting the robberies, and the rewards that would be given, provided the goods were recovered; and they were then desired to call again in a few days, when he hoped he should be able to give them some agreeable intelligence.

Upon calling to know the success of his enquiries, he informed them that he had received some information concerning their goods, but that the agent he had employed to trace them had informed him that the robbers pretended they could raise more money by pawning the property than by returning it for the proposed reward; saying, however, that if he could by any means procure an interview with the villains he doubted not of being able to settle matters agreeable to the terms already proposed; but, at the same time, artfully insinuating that the most safe, expeditious and prudent method would be to make some addition to the reward.

Wild at length, became eminent in his profession, which proved highly lucrative. When he had discovered the utmost sum that it was likely people would give for the recovery of their property, he requested them to call again, and in the mean time he caused the goods to be ready for delivery. He derived considerable advantages from examining persons who had been robbed; for he thence became acquainted with the particulars

culars which the thieves had omitted to communicate to him, and was enabled to detect them if they concealed any part of their booties. Being in possession of the secrets of all the notorious robbers, they were under the necessity of complying with whatever terms he thought proper to exact; for they were conscious that by opposing his inclination they should involve themselves in the most imminent danger of being sacrificed to the injured laws of their country.

Through the infamous practices of this man articles which had been before considered as of no use but to the owners, now became matters claiming a particular attention from the thieves by whom the metropolis and its environs were infested. Pocket-books, books of accounts, watches, rings, trinkets, and a variety of articles of but small intrinsic worth, were now esteemed very profitable booty. Books of accounts and other writings being of great importance to the owners, produced very handsome rewards; and the same may be said of pocket-books, for they generally contained memorandums, and sometimes bank-notes and other articles on which money could be readily procured.

Wild accumulated money so fast that he considered himself as a man of consequence, and to support his imaginary dignity he dressed in laced clothes, and wore a sword. He first exercised his martial instrument on the person of his accomplice and reputed wife, Mary Milliner. Having on some occasion provoked him, he, with an oath, declared he would “mark her for a bitch,” and instantly drawing his sword struck at her, and cut off one of her ears. This event was the cause of a separation; but in acknowledgment of the great services she had rendered him, by in-

roducing him to so lucrative a profession, he allowed a weekly stipend till her decease.

Before Wild had brought the plan of his office to perfection he for some time acted as an assistant to Charles Hitchen, the city-marshal. These celebrated co-partners in villainy, under the pretext of reforming the manners of the dissolute part of the public, paraded the streets from Temple-bar to the Minories, searching houses of ill-fame, and apprehending disorderly and suspected persons: but such as complimented these *public* reformers with *private* douceurs were allowed to practice every species of wickedness with impunity. Hitchen and Wild, however, became jealous of each other, and an open rupture taking place, they parted each pursuing the business of thief-taking on his own account*.

In 1718 the marshal attacked Wild in a pamphlet, called, *The Regulator; or a Discovery of Thieves, Thief-takers, &c.* which was answered by his antagonist and from each of these curious performances we shall here introduce some extracts.

Abstract of the City Marshal's Account of JONATHAN WILD, &c.

‘ IF these should hold their peace, the stones in the street would cry out of such abominable practices, as are committed and carried on in this city and places adjacent, by thieves and robbers, and—thief-takers.

One

* In the year 1715 Wild removed from his house in Cock-Alley, to a Mrs. Seagoe's in the Old Bailey, where he pursued his business with the usual success notwithstanding the efforts of Hitchen (his rival in iniquity) to suppress his proceedings.

One thief-taker brought to justice, is more for the advantage of the city, than a hundred thieves; and in order thereto, I shall here take notice of only one of the aforesaid felonious practices, taking it for granted, that all the rest are of the same management; to wit, a gentlewoman, as she was passing along in the evening in a coach, on the South-side of St. Paul's Church-yard, was there, in a most audacious and barbarous manner, robbed to a considerable value, by three of the most notorious rogues, (William Matthews, Christopher Matthews, and Obadiah Lemon, who agreed to make himself an evidence) that ever this kingdom was plagued with; which being discovered and sought after, in order to bring them to justice for so doing, the Thief-taker hearing of the same, and fearing that he might by this means lose three of the most profitable customers which belonged to his felonious shop, immediately summoned the three aforesaid offenders to a friendly conference, where it was unanimously agreed that the only way to save them, at this critical juncture, was, for one of them to make himself an evidence, &c. "Well then," saith the Thief-taker, "in order to blind the justice, and that he may take the information, is to induce him to believe that we are doing something for the good of the public: therefore, you must put into the information a numerous train of offenders which have been concerned with you, either in robberies, or buying, or receiving of your stolen goods; and at the same time you must be sure to promise him, the said justice, that you will convict them all: and, that there may be a perfect harmony between us, you shall hear me, your Counsellor, your Thief taker, and Factor, promise

"mise

“mise as faithfully that I will apprehend, take,
 “and bring them to justice for the same. But,
 “by the bye, I must give you this caution, to
 “leave out the sixty dozen of handkerchiefs that
 “were taken by Mr. Ridley, from a dyer’s ser-
 “vant, whom they sent on a sham errand, for
 “which handkerchiefs I received thirty guineas
 “from the owner, but gave Oakley, Lemon, and
 “Mr. Johnson but ten guineas. That you do
 “not put such and such robberies into the infor-
 “mation, because I was employed by the per-
 “sons that you robbed, to get their goods again,
 “and, they not bidding money enough for the
 “same, they were not returned to the right
 “owner. Therefore, you know such must be
 “left out, otherwise I shall bring my own neck
 “into the noose, and put it in the power of every
 “little prig, as well as others, to pull the cord
 “at their pleasure; and upon such terms, who
 “the devil would be your factor?”

Let us now see what is the consequence of this
 skittish and felonious information; but deceiving
 the magistrate and letting the three aforesaid no-
 torious offenders escape the hand of justice, and
 hanging up a couple of sham sham thieves (Hugh
 Oakley and Henry Chickley) which he got little
 or nothing by, in their room: and likewise to
 give the Thief-taker an opportunity to rob or ex-
 tort a sum of money out of all the rest in the in-
 formation, by making up and compounding the
 felonies with them, which, by a modest compu-
 tation, cannot amount to less than a hundred
 pounds, or more, &c.

Then is it not high time for the citizens of
 London, and the places adjacent, to bestir them-
 selves, when the greatest offenders have found a
 way, with the assistance of their friend the Thief-
 taker,

taker, to escape the hand of justice; This will give them encouragement, and make them desperate, as well as frequent in their robberies, and, what the citizens and others must dearly pay for, if not timely prevented, by putting a stop to the same.

In short, the thief, the goal, the justice, and the king's evidence, all of them seem to be influenced and managed by him, and, at this rate, none will be brought to the gallows, but such as he thinks fit, &c.

Now, if enquiry were to be made, by what means he arrived to this pitch of preferment he is now at, you will find that he hath been a great proficient in all matters and things, that he hath hitherto engaged in.

I. Who, when in a private station, and followed the trade of buckle-making, knew how to plate a crown piece as well as any that followed that employment.

II. When he became an evidence, did the business skittishly, and as effectually, as any of those he now sets up.

III. When he was a twang, and followed the tail of his wife, Mary Milliner, a common night-walker, no sooner had she poked a pocket, and given him the signal by a hem! or otherwise, but he had impudence and courage enough to attack the cull, until the buttock had made her escape.

IV. When king of the gipsies, Jonathan Wild did execute the hidden and dark part of a stroller to all intents and purposes, until, in Holborn, by order of the justice, his *skuisb* and *baboonish* majesty was set in the stocks for the same.

V. Now King among the thieves, and Lying-master-general of England, Captain-general of the

the army of plunderers, and Ambassador Extraordinary from the Prince of the Air, hath taken up his residence in an apartment fitted up on purpose for him in the Palace of the Queen of Hell, where continual attendance is given for receiving and buying stolen goods; as likewise, to *put them back* again, provided the right owners will offer money enough for the same; but if not, then doth his excellency fly off, and give you to understand, that the goods he hath heard of, are not yours, and that he cannot assist you, and that you may be gone about your business, for—he will take a sum of money of the thief, or dispose of the goods some other way. Certainly, such a monster of iniquity as this is not to be found in any part of the habitable world, save only in this kingdom, and this infatuated city, and places adjacent, those places of general corruption.

VI. There being one thing more, which he earnestly desires, and solicits to be employed in finding out, and setting up evidences against the false coiners, and, then you need not doubt but in a little time you will have as many coiners, as you have thieves. O! London! London! so much famed for thy good order; by what means is it now come to pass, that thou art become a receptacle for a den of thieves and robbers, and all sorts of villainous persons and practices?

It may be proper to examine a little into the trade of punishing wickedness and vice, the same being become one of the most mysterious, profitable, and flourishing trades now in the kingdom—and the open, but unwarrantable and pernicious practice of the regulator (Jonathan Wild.)

And, in order thereto, I shall here take a view of him in the public streets, which he so much boasteth of, and fain would persuade you, that he

he doth so much good to the public, by stopping the whores, and other persons viciously inclined, and forcibly entering the houses of bawdry, and taking them out from thence, and committing them to goals. And now pray, what's the consequence of all this? woeful experience plainly shews; that, by the ill-acquaintance, and conversation they meet with there, they learn to be thieves, and find the way to the Thief-takers houses, set up by them on purpose to harbour and train up one brood of thieyes under another, and to screen and save them from the gallows, to the end that they may live by the reversion of them. And now it is the general complaint, that people are afraid, when it is dark, to come to their houses, for fear that their hats and wigs should be snatched from off their heads, or their swords taken from their sides, or, that they may be blinded, knocked down, cut or stabbed; nay, the coaches cannot secure them, but, they are likewise assaulted, cut and robbed in the public streets—And how can you suppose it to be otherwise, when there are so many public offices, public and private houses, public inns, and public shops, set up on purpose to harbour thieves and robbers, and carry on the basest designs with them.'—

Particulars relative to JONATHAN WILD, and the City Marshal, abstracted from his new Account.

‘**W**HEN two of a profession are at variance, the world is let into many important discoveries; and, whether it be among thief-takers, lawyers, or clergymen an expectation, naturally arises of some Billingsgate treatment.—For the

satisfaction of the world in this particular, I shall, like a true cock of the game, answer Mr. Hitchen at his own weapons.—

—Says my old master in iniquity, “ One thief-taker brought to justice, is more for the advantage of the city, than a hundred thieves:” Not to justify the practice of thief-taking, I acquiesce with him in this, if the *oldest* offenders are to be *first* prosecuted, and then I’ll leave the world to judge,—Who will first deserve an exemplary punishment.

It appears from this that Jonathan was not the original thief-taker, but, that he borrowed some hints from the marshal, and afterwards improved them.

The information he mentioned, in respect to the setting up an evidence, is intirely groundless, the person accused being perfectly ignorant of it; and there are enough to prove the evidence voluntarily appeared before my lord mayor: and, as for not returning of goods for want of a reward sufficient to the value, I shall shew what flagrant crimes the city marshal has been guilty of, of this nature.—

Jonathan does not here deny the charge of not returning the goods, and therefore we may venture to take it for fact.

Says this author.—“ He knew how to plate a crown piece as well as any that followed that employment.” Now, if he could prove this assertion, or any thing like it, it is very rational to suppose, that he would bring the thief-taker to condign punishment, being his implacable enemy—

That setting up evidence against false coiners is the way to have as many coiners as thieves, is such a piece of nonsense, absurdity, and contradiction, that this is not to be paralleled.

And

And it is a notable piéce of inconsistency to say, that taking whores out of bawdy houses, and sending them to workhouses, makes them thieves. By this way of arguing, the houses of correction, instead of deterring iniquity, increase thefts, and robberies, and the reformers of manners are the promoters of wickedness—But it is no wonder that the marshal, throughout his treatise, expresses a great deal of uneasiness at the informers, for those persons very much lessen his interest in suppressing houses of lewdness, the keepers whereof have been generally pensioners to him.—I can produce persons who will make it appear, that several houses of ill-fame are supported by quarterly payments to him. Besides, there being frequently sums of money extorted from libertines for connivance at their lewdness, and sometimes from persons entirely innocent, and unacquainted with the character of those houses. And he has of late been so audacious, as to examine taverns of the best reputation, and insist upon yearly compositions from them, though the only payment he has met with, has been a salute with a crab-tree cudgel, and a decent toss in a blanket.

He has shewn such an excellence in the flash or cant dialect, that every body must allow him a master, and that experience only must have completed him. His dialogue demonstrates his great knowledge in the intrigues of pick-pockets, house-breakers, and highwaymen; and a man would swear by his apt description, that he had been an actor in all. The boys in the ken swearing and grinning like so many hell-cats; and the man in the silver-buttoned coat, and knotted, wig, with a sword by his side, is an exact scene of a city-officer, and his company of pick-pockets at an alehouse between Moorfields and Islington;

where they used to rendezvous daily, the boys giving an account of their day's work, and the master dispensing further instructions.

I need not mention his being nearer the pillory than ever a certain person was to the stocks.— And, however a certain diminutive person may resemble a baboon, it is evident to all that know the gigantic city marshal, that he wants nothing but a cloven foot to personate, in all respects, his father Beelzebub.

There are many other particulars which I shall omit, and proceed to several matters of fact, to make appear, that (instead of a scoundrel author's being intirely free from all the evil practices he has treated of, he is guilty of the same crimes he pretends to fix upon others.

After the marshal's suspension in his office, and he was forbid attendance on the lord-mayor, he on a time applied himself to the buckle-maker near Cripplegate, in the following manner :

“ I am very sensible that you are let into the
 “ knowledge of the intrigues of the Compter, par-
 “ ticularly with relation to the securing of pocket-
 “ books : but your experience is inferior to mine ;
 “ I can put you in a far better method than you
 “ are acquainted with, and which may be done
 “ with safety ; for though I am suspended, I
 “ still retain the power of acting as constable,
 “ and, notwithstanding I cannot be heard before
 “ my lord mayor as formerly, I have interest
 “ among the aldermen upon any complaint.

“ But I must first tell you that you spoil the
 “ trade of thief-taking, in advancing greater re-
 “ wards than are necessary : I give but half-a-
 “ crown a book, and, when the thieyes and
 “ pick-pockets see you and I confederate, they'll
 “ submit to our terms, and likewise continue their
 “ thefts.

“ thefts for fear of coming to the gallows by our
 “ means.—You shall take a turn with me as my
 “ servant, or assistant, and we’ll commence our
 “ rambles this night.”

The night approaching, the marshal and the buckle-maker began their walk at Temple-bar, and called in at several brandy-shops, and ale-houses, between that and Fleet-ditch: some of the masters of these houses complimented the marshal with punch, others with brandy, and some presented him with fine ale, offering their service to their worthy protector.

The marshal made them little answer; but gave them to understand, all the service he expected from them was, to give him information of pocket-books, or any goods stolen, as a pay-back: “ For you women of the town,” (addressing himself to some females in one of the shops) “ make
 “ it a common practice to resign things of this
 “ nature to the bullies and rogues of your retinue;—but this shall no longer be borne with,
 “ I’ll give you my word both they and you shall
 “ be detected, unless you deliver all the pocket-books you meet with to me. What do you
 “ think I bought my place for, but to make the
 “ most of it? and you are to understand this is
 “ my man (pointing to the buckle-maker) to assist me. And if you at any time for the future
 “ refuse to yield up the watches and books you
 “ take, either to me, or my servant, you may be
 “ assured of being all sent to Bridewell, and not
 “ one of you shall be permitted to walk the streets.
 “ For, notwithstanding I am under a suspension,
 “ (the chief reason of which is, for not suppressing the practices of such vermin as you) I have
 “ still a power of punishing, and you shall dearly
 “ pay

“ pay for the least disobedience to what I have
“ commanded.”

Strutting along the streets a little farther, the marshal on a sudden seized two or three dexterous pick-pockets, reprimanding them for not paying their respects to their mighty chief; and withal, asking them to what parts of the town they were rambling, and whether they did not see him? to which they answered, that they saw him at a distance (he being big and remarkable enough to be known by them and their brethren) but he caught hold of them so hastily, that they had no time to address him. “ We have been strolling,” continued the pick-pockets, “ over Moorfields, “ and from thence to the Blue-Boar, in pursuit “ of you; but, not finding you as usual, we were “ under some fears that you were indisposed:” The marshal replied, he should have given them a meeting there, but had been employed the whole day with his new man. “ You are to be “ very careful,” said he, “ not to oblige any “ person but myself, or servant, with pocket- “ books: if you presume to do otherwise, you “ shall swing for it, and we are out in the city “ every night to observe your motions.” These instructions given, the pick-pockets left us, making their master a low congée, and promising obedience. This was the progress of the first night with the buckle-maker, whom he told, that his staff of authority terrified the ignorant to the extent of his wishes.

Some nights afterwards, walking towards the back part of St. Paul’s, the marshal thus addressed the buckle-maker, “ I’ll now shew you a brandy- “ shop that entertains no company but whores “ and thieves. This is a house for our purpose, “ and I am informed, that a woman of the town, “ who

“ who frequents it, has lately decently robbed a
 “ gentleman of his watch and pocket-book; the
 “ advice I received from her companion, with
 “ whom I have a good understanding. We will
 “ go into the house, and, if we can find this wo-
 “ man, I will assume a more stern countenance
 “ (though at best, I look like an infernal,) and,
 “ by continued threats, extort a confession, and
 “ by that means get possession of the watch and
 “ pocket-book; in order to which, do you slyly
 “ accost her companion.”—Here he described
 her.—“ Call to her, and inform her, that your
 “ master is in a damned ill humour, and swears,
 “ if she does not instantly make a discovery where
 “ the watch and pocket-book may be found, at
 “ farthest by to-morrow, he will certainly send
 “ her to the Compter, and thence to the Work-
 “ house.”

The means being thus concerted to gain the
 valuable goods, both master and man entered the
 shop in pursuit of the game, and, according to
 expectation, they found the person wanted, with
 several others; whereupon the marshal, shewing
 an enraged countenance, becoming the design,
 and the buckle-maker being obliged to follow his
 example, the company said, that the master and
 man looked as four as two devils.—“ Devils,”
 said the marshal, “ I’ll make some of you devils,
 “ if you do not immediately discover the watch
 “ and pocket-book, I am employed to procure.”
 —“ We do not know your meaning, sir,” an-
 swered some, “ Who do you discourse to?” said
 others, “ we know nothing of it.” The marshal
 replied in a more soft tone. “ You are ungrate-
 “ ful to the last degree, to deny me this small re-
 “ quest, when I was never let into the secret of
 “ any thing to be taken from a gentleman, but I
 “ com-

“ communicated it to you, describing the person
 “ so exactly, that you could not mistake the
 “ man; and there is so little got at this rate, that
 “ the devil may trade with you for me.”

This speech being over, the marshal gave a nod to his man, who, in obedience to his master's motions, and his former commands, called one of the women to the door, and, telling the story above directed, the female answered, “ Un-
 “ conscionable devil! when he gets five or ten
 “ guineas, not to bestow above five or ten shil-
 “ lings upon us unfortunate wretches! but how-
 “ ever, rather than go to the Compter, I'll try
 “ what is to be done.”

The woman, returning to the marshal, asked him, what he would give for the delivery of the watch, being seven or eight pounds in value, and the pocket-book having in it several notes and goldsmith's bills: to whom the marshal answered, a guinea, and told her, it was much better to comply, than to go to Newgate, which she must certainly expect upon her refusal.

The woman replied, that the watch was in pawn for forty shillings, and, if he did not advance that sum, she should be obliged to strip herself for the redemption, though, when her furbelowed scarf was laid aside, she had nothing underneath, but furniture for a paper mill. After abundance of words, he allowed her 30s. for the watch and book which she accepted, and the watch was never returned to the owner.

Some little time after this, a gentleman in liquor going into the Blue-Boar, near Moorfields, with a woman of the town, immediately lost his watch. He applied to the marshal, desiring his assistance: but the buckle-maker being well acquainted with the walk between Cripplegate, and

Moor-

Moorfields, had the fortune to find the woman. The master immediately seized her, on notice given, and, by vehement threatenings, obliged her to a confession. She declared, that she had stolen the watch, and carried it to a woman, that kept a brandy-shop near, desiring her to assist in the sale of it. The mistress of the brandy-shop readily answered, she had it from an honest young woman that frequented her house, whose husband was gone to sea; whereupon she pawned the watch for its value, and ordered the sale.

This story seeming reasonable, the watch-maker purchased the watch, and gave the money agreed for it, which was fifty shillings. Thus the sale of the watch being discovered, the marshal with his staff and assistants, immediately repaired to the watchmaker's house, and seized the watch-maker, in the same manner as a person would do the greatest criminal: he carried him to a public-house, telling him that if he did not forthwith send for the watch, he should be committed to Newgate.

The watch-maker, not being any ways accustomed to unfair dealings, directly answered, that he bought the watch, and the person he had it of would produce the woman that stole it, if it were stolen, the woman being then present. The marshal replied, he had no business with the persons that stole the watch, but with him in whose possession it was found, and that, if he did not instantly send for the watch, and deliver it, without insisting upon any money, but, on the contrary, return him thanks for his civility, which deserved five or ten pieces, he would, without delay, send him to Newgate.

Upon this the innocent watch-maker, being much surprized, sent for the watch, and surrendered it to him; and since that he has been well satisfied, that the person who owned the watch made a present to the Marshal of three guineas for his trouble, and the poor watch-maker never had a farthing for his fifty shillings. This story and the following sufficiently demonstrate the honesty of the City Marshal.

Some time ago a biscuit-baker near Wapping, having lost a pocket-book, wherein was, among other papers, an exchequer bill for 100l. applied himself to the marshal's man, the buckle-maker, for the recovery thereof; the buckle-maker advised him to advertise it, and stop the payment of the bill, which he did accordingly; but, having no account of his bill, he came to the buckle-maker several times about it, and at length he told him, there had been with him a tall man, with a long peruke and sword, calling himself the city marshal, and asked him, if he had lost his pocket-book? the biscuit-maker answered, Yes, desiring to know his reasons for asking him such a question, and whether he could give him any intelligence. He replied, no, he could not give him any intelligence of it as yet; but desired to be informed, whether he had employed any person to search after it? To which the biscuit-baker answered, he had employed one Wild. Whereupon the marshal told him, he was under a mistake, for he should have applied to him, who was the only person in England that could have served him, being well assured it was entirely out of the power of Wild, or any of those fellows, to know where it was.—This was very certain, he having it at that time in his custody,
and

and desired to know the reward that would be given. The gentleman answered, he would give 10*l.* The marshal replied, that a greater reward should be offered, for that exchequer bills, and those things were ready money, and could immediately be sold, and that, if he had employed him in the beginning, and offered 40 or 50*l.* he would have served him.

The biscuit-baker acquainting Wild with this story, Wild gave it as his opinion that the pocket book was in the Marshal's possession, and therefore it would be to no purpose to continue advertising it, he being well assured, that the Marshal would not have taken the pains to find out the biscuit-baker, unless he knew how to get at it.

Upon the whole, Wild advised the biscuit-baker rather to advance his bidding, considering what hands the note was in, and because the Marshal had often told his servant, how easily he could dispose of bank-notes and exchequer bills, at gaming-houses, which he very much frequented.

Pursuant to this advice, the owner at last went a second time to the marshal, and bid forty pounds for his pocket-book and bill. "Zounds, Sir," said the Marshal, "you are too late!" which was all the satisfaction he gave him. Thus the poor biscuit-baker was tricked out of his exchequer bill; but it happened a small time after, that some of the young fry of pick-pockets, under the tuition of the Marshal, fell out in sharing the money given them for this very pocket-book; whereupon one of them came to the person first employed by the biscuit-baker, and discovered the whole matter, viz. that he had sold the biscuit-baker's pocket book, with the hundred pound exchequer note in it, and other bills, to the

City-Marshal, at a tavern in Aldersgate-street, for four or five guineas.

The person to whom the boy applied himself, asked him what sort of a person the gentleman was that he took it from, who readily answered, that he was a lusty elderly man, with light hair, which was very apparent to be the same person. There are several living who will justify this account of the whole affair, and the exchequer bill was never returned to the owner, but paid to another person, though it could never be traced back.

This account entirely fact, contains a charge far greater than any the marshal has pretended to fix upon the thief-taker, as he styles him.

The following story is thought absolutely necessary to shew farther the dealings and good correspondence between the Marshal, the thieves and pickpockets about town.

Some time ago, when a person stood in the pillory near Charing Cross, a gentleman in the crowd was deprived of a pocket book, which had in it bills and lottery tickets, to the value of several hundred pounds; and a handsome reward was at first offered for it in a public advertisement, thirty pounds at least.

The marshal having a suspicion that a famous pick-pocket, known by his lame hand, had taken the book, he applied to him, and, to enforce a confession and delivery, told him, with a great deal of assurance, that he must be the person, such a man, with a lame hand, being described by the gentleman, to be near him, and whom, he was certain, had stolen his book. "In
"short,"

“short,” says he, “you had the book, and you must bring it to me, and you shall share the reward; but if you refuse to comply with such advantageous terms, you must never expect to come within the city gates; for, if you do, Bridewell, at least, if not Newgate, shall be your residence.”

Several meetings having taken place, the Marshal’s old friend could not deny that he had the pocket-book; but he said to the Marshal, “I did not expect this rigorous treatment from you, after the services I have done you, in concealing you several times, and by that means, keeping you out of a goal. It is not the way to expect any future services, when all my former good offices are forgotten.”

The Marshal, notwithstanding these reasons, still insisted upon what he had first proposed; and, at length, the pick-pocket considering that he could not repair to the Exchange, or elsewhere, to follow his pilfering employment, without the Marshal’s consent, and fearing to be a mark of his revenge, he condescended to part with the pocket book, upon terms reasonable between buyer and seller. “Whereupon, (says the Marshal) I lost my money last night at gaming, except a gold watch in my pocket, which I believe there will be no enquiry after, it coming to hand by an intrigue with a famous woman of the town, whom the gentleman will be ashamed to prosecute, for fear of exposing himself. I’ll exchange goods for goods with you.” So the pick-pocket, rather than he would risk the consequence of disobliging his master, concluded the bargain.

The following story is to prove the Marshal's prodigious courage and forwardness to hang Burglars, even his own pupils, for the reward.

One night, not far from St. Paul's, the Marshal, and the buckle-maker, his man, went with a detachment of pick-pocket boys, who instantly, at the sight of their master took to their heels and ran away. The buckle-maker asked the meaning of their surprize. To which the Marshal answered, "I know their meaning, a pack
 " of rogues! they were to have met me in the
 " fields this morning with a book I am inform-
 " ed they have taken from a gentleman, and
 " they are afraid of being secured for their dis-
 " obedience. There is Jack Jones, among them.
 " — We'll catch the whore's-birds." Jack Jones, running behind a coach to make his escape, was taken by the Marshal and his man. The master carried him to a tavern, and threatened him severely, telling him he believed they were turned house-breakers, and that they were concerned in a burglary lately committed by four young criminals. This happened to be fact, and the boy fearing the Marshal had been informed of it, he, for his own security, confessed, and the Marshal promised to save his life on his becoming evidence. Whereupon the Marshal committed the boy to the Compter till the next morning, when he carried him before a justice of the peace, who took his information, and issued a warrant for the apprehending his companions:

Notice being given where the criminals were to be found, viz. at a house in Beech-lane, the

Mar-

Marshal and his man went privately in the night thither, and listening at the door, they overheard the boys, with several others in a mixed company.

They entered the house, where they met ten or eleven persons, who were in a great rage, enquiring what business the marshal had there, and saluted him with a few oaths, which occasioned the Marshal to make a prudent retreat, pulling the door after him, and leaving his little man to the mercy of the savage company.

In a short time, the Marshal returned with eight or ten watchmen and a constable; and, at the door, the Marshal, out of his dastardly disposition, though his pretence was a ceremonious respect, obliged the constable to go in first; but the constable and Marshal were both so long in their compliments, that the man thought neither of them would enter in; at last the constable entering with his long staff extended before him, the Marshal manfully followed, crying out, "Where are the rebel villains? Why don't ye secure them?" The Buckle-maker answered, that they were under the table; upon which the constable pulled out the juvenile offenders, neither of whom were above twelve years of age. The two boys now taken were committed to Newgate; but the fact being committed in the county of Surry, they were afterwards removed to the Marshalsea prison. The assizes coming on at Kingston, and Jones giving his evidence against his companions, before the grand jury, the bill was found, and the Marshal indorsed his name on the back of it, to have the honour of being an evidence against those monstrous house-breakers. On the trial, the nature of the fact was declared; but the parents of the offenders appear-

appeared, and satisfied the court, that the Marshal was the occasion of the ruin of these boys, by taking them into the fields, and encouraging them in the stealing of pocket-books: and told him, on his affirming they were thieves, that he had made them such.

The judge observing the marshal's views were more to get the reward than to do justice, summed up the charge to the jury, in favour of the boys, who were thereupon acquitted; and the marshal reprimanded. He was so enraged at this, and so angry with himself for not accusing the boys of other crimes, that he immediately returned to London, and left his man to discharge the whole reckoning at Kiington.

In order to illustrate the preceding, we think it necessary to add the following story:

A gentleman, that had lost his watch when in company with a woman of the town; applied to a person belonging to the Compter, who recommended him to the buckle-maker to procure the same; and the gentleman applying accordingly to him, and giving a description of the woman; the buckle-maker, a few days after, traversing Fleet-street with his master in an evening, happened to meet with the female, (as he apprehended by the description of the gentleman) who had stolen the watch, and, coming nearer, he was satisfied therein.

He told his master, that she was the very person described; to which the master answered, with an air of pleasure, "I am glad to find we have a prospect of something to-night to defray our expence," and immediately with his man seized the female, and carried her to a public

lic-house, where, upon examination, she confessed it was in her power to serve the marshal in it; telling him, that, if he would please to go with her home, or send his man, the watch would be returned, and a suitable reward for his trouble. The man asked his master his opinion, whether he thought he might pursue the woman with safety? to which he replied, Yes, for that he knew her: and giving hints of his following at a reasonable distance for his security, which he did with a great deal of precaution, as will appear: for the man proceeding with the female, she informed him that her husband, who had the watch about him, was at a tavern near Whitefriars, and, if he would condescend to go thither, he might be furnished with it, without giving himself any farther trouble, together with the reward he deserved. To which the man consented; and, coming to the tavern, she made enquiry for the company she had been with but a short space before; and, being informed they were still in the house, she sent in word by the drawer, that the gentlewoman who had been with them that evening, desired the favour to speak with them. The drawer going in, and delivering the message, immediately three or four gentlemen came from the room to the woman: she gave them to understand, that the marshal's man had accused her of stealing a watch, telling them she supposed it must be some other woman, who had assumed her name, and desiring their protection; upon this the whole company sallied out, and attacked the marshal's man in a very violent manner, to make a rescue of the female, upbraiding him for disgracing a gentlewoman of her reputation.

The marshal, observing the ill success of his

man, and fearing the discipline of a poker, fire-fork, or firebrands (which his man was obliged to go through) reserving his fate of this kind to futurity, decently made off, hugging himself that he had escaped the severe treatment he equally deserved with them.

The man in the struggle shewed his resentment chiefly against the female; and, after a long contest, wherein he disrobed her so effectually, that she appeared like Eve without her fig-leaf, she was in that pickle thrust out at the back door; and immediately the watch being called, he and the rest of the men were seized.

As they were going to the Compter, the Marshal overtook them near Bow-church, and asked his man the occasion of his long absence, coming up to him in great haste; the man answered, that he had been at the tavern with the woman, where he thought he saw him: the master answered, that indeed he was there. hut, seeing the confusion so great, he went off to call the watch and constables.

This dialogue being over, the marshal used his interest to get his man off, but to no purpose, he being carried to the Compter with the rest of the company, in order to make an agreement there.

The next morning the woman sent to her companions in the Compter, letting them know, that, if they could be released, the watch should be returned without any consideration, which was accordingly done; and a small present made to the marshal's man for smart-money; and upon this the persons were all discharged, paying their fees.

The watch being now ready to be produced to the owner, the marshal insisted upon the greatest part

part of the reward, as being the greatest person in authority: the man declared it unreasonable, unless he had partook of the largest share of the bastinado. “But however,” says the marshal; “I have now an opportunity of playing my old game; I’ll oblige the gentleman to give me ten guineas to save his reputation, which is so nearly concerned with a common prostitute.” But the gentleman knew too much of his character to be thus imposed upon; and would give him no more than what he promised, which was three guineas. The master at first refused, but his man (who had the most right to make a new contract) advising him to act cautiously, he at last agreed to accept the reward at first offered, giving his man only one guinea for his service and the cure of his wounds. This is a sufficient instance of the marshal’s cowardice and inhumanity.

Thus having recited some faithful accounts of the flagrant crimes the marshal has been guilty of in the way of thief-taking, I come to others of less consequence.

One night the marshal and buckle-maker being abroad on their walks, not far from the Temple, they discovered a clergyman standing against the wall, in an ally to which he had retired, as persons frequently do on account of modesty and decency. Immediately a woman of the town lying in wait for prey, brushed by, the clergyman saying aloud, “What does the woman want?” The marshal instantly run in upon them; and seized the clergyman, bidding his man secure the woman. The clergyman resisted, protesting his innocence, (which his language to the woman confirmed) but finding it to no purpose, he at last desired that he might be permitted to go into an ironmonger’s house near; but the marshal refused,

and dragged the clergyman to the end of Salisbury Court in Fleet-street, where he raised a mob about him; and two or three gentlemen that knew the parson, happening to come by, asked the mob what they were doing with him, telling them he was chaplain to a noble lord. The rough gentry answered, "Damn him, we believe he's chaplain to the devil, for we caught him with a whore."

Hereupon the gentlemen desired the marshal to go to a tavern that they might talk with him without noise and tumult, which he consented to. When they came into the tavern, the clergyman asked the marshal by what authority he thus abused him? the marshal replied, he was a city-officer (pulling out his staff) and would have him to the Compter, unless he gave very good security for his appearance the next morning, when he would swear that he caught him with the whore.

The clergyman seeing him so bent upon perjury, which would very much expose him, sent for other persons to vindicate his reputation, who, putting a glittering security into the marshal's hand (which they found was the only way to deal with such a monster in iniquity) the clergyman was permitted to depart.

The marshal being now ready for another adventure, going up Ludgate-hill, he observed a well-dressed woman walking before, which he told the buckle-maker was a lewd woman, for that he saw her talking with a man. This was no sooner spoke but he seized her, and asked her who she was? She made answer, that she was a bailiff's wife. "You are more like to be a whore," said the marshal, "and as such you shall go to the Compter."

Taking

While he was taking the woman through St. Paul's Church-yard, she importuned liberty to send for some friends; but he would not comply with her request. He forced her into the Nag's-head tavern in Cheap-side, where he presently ordered a hot supper and plenty of wine to be brought in; commanding the female to sit at a distance from his worship, and telling her, that he did not permit such vermin to sit in his presence, though he intended to make her pay the reckoning.

The supper being brought to the table, he fell to it lustily, and would not allow the woman to eat any part of the supper with him, or to come near the fire, though it was extreme cold weather. When he had supped, he stared round, and, applying himself to her, told her, that if he had been an informer, or such a fellow, she would have called for eatables and wine herself, and not have given him the trouble of direction, or else would have slipped a piece into his hand. Adding, "You may do what you please: but though we
" that buy our places, seem to go for nothing, I
" can assure you it is in my power, if I see a wo-
" man in the hands of informers, to discharge
" her, and commit them. You are not so igno-
" rant, but you must guess my meaning." She replied, that she had money enough to pay for the supper, and about three half crowns more. This desirable answer being given, he ordered his attendance to withdraw, while he compounded the matter with her.

When the buckle-maker came in again, the gentlewoman was very civilly asked to sit by the fire, and eat the remainder of the supper, and in all respects treated very kindly, only with a pretended reprimand to give him better language whenever he should speak to her for the future.

And

And, after another bottle drank at her expence, she was discharged. This is an excellent method to get a good supper gratis, and to fill an empty pocket.

These are some of the most remarkable adventures of the marshal and his man, after the marshal's suspension; and many others might be enumerated, but, unwilling to tire the reader's patience, I omit them; though it may not be amiss to inform the public, that a certain person, before his disgrace, used to have daily meetings with the pick-pocket boys in Moorfields, and to treat them there plentifully with cakes and ale; offering them sufficient encouragement to continue their theft; and at a certain time it happened, that one of the boys, more cunning than his companions, having stolen an alderman's pocket-book, and opening it, and finding several bank bills, he gave the marshal to understand, that it was worth a great deal beyond the usual price; and the notes being of considerable value, he insisted upon five pieces. The marshal told the boy, that five pieces was enough to break him at once; that if he gave him two guineas he would be sufficiently paid, but assured him, that if he had the good luck to obtain a handsome reward, he would make it up five pieces.

Upon this present encouragement and future expectation, the boy delivered up the pocket-book, and a few days afterwards, being informed that a very large reward had been given for the notes, he applied to the marshal for the remaining three guineas according to promise; but all the satisfaction he had was, that he should be sent to the house of correction if he continued to demand it; the marshal telling him, that such

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rascals as he were ignorant how to dispose of their money.

To prove that he dealt from the beginning with pick-pocket boys, I need only mention the cause of his being suspended; which was for his conniving at the intrigues of the pick-pockets; taking the stolen pocket-books, and sending threatening letters to the persons that lost them, under pretence that they had been in company with lewd women; and for extorting money from several persons, and one in particular, who making his complaint to an eminent apothecary in the Poultry, that knew the villainy of the marshal, the affair was brought before the court of Aldermen, when, upon examination, the marshal was found guilty of that and many other notorious crimes, upon which he was suspended.

In order to exhibit another part of the marshal's character, the following adventure is related.

One night the marshal invited his man, the buckle-maker, to a house near the end of the Old Bailey, telling him, that he could introduce him to a company of he-whores. The man, not rightly apprehending his meaning, asked him if they were hermaphrodites?—"No, you fool you," said the marshal, "they are sodomites, such as deal with their own sex instead of females."

This being a curiosity the buckle-maker had not hitherto met with, he willingly accompanied his master to the house, which they had no sooner entered, but the marshal was complimented by the company with the titles of madam and ladyship.

The man, asking the occasion of these uncommon devoirs, the marshal said it was a familiar

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language peculiar to the house. The man was not long there, before he was more surprised, than at first; the men calling one another my dear, and hugging, kissing, and tickling each other, as if they were a mixture of wanton males, and females and assuming effeminate voices and airs. Some telling others that they ought to be whipped for not coming to school more frequently.

The marshal was very merry in this assembly, and dallied with the young sparks with a great deal of pleasure, till some persons came into the house that he little expected to meet with in that place; and then, finding it out of his power to secure the lads to himself he started up on a sudden in a prodigious rage, asking the frolicking youths, if they were become so common as to use these obnoxious houses, and telling them he would spoil their diversion; upon this he made his exit with his man.

While the marshal was going out of the house he said, he supposed they would have the impudence to make a ball. The man desiring him to explain what he meant by that, he answered, that there was a noted house in Holborn, to which such sort of persons used to repair, and dress themselves up in women's apparel, and dance and romp about, and make such a hellish noise, that a man would swear they were a parcel of cats a catterwauling.

—“But,” says he, “I’ll be revenged of these smock-faced young dogs. I’ll watch their walters, and secure them, and send them to the Compter.”

The marshal accordingly, as he knew their usual hours, and customary walks, placed himself with a constable in Fleet-street, and dispatched his man, with another to assist him, to the Old Bayley,

ley. At the expected time several of the sporting youngsters were seized in women's apparel, and conveyed to the Compter.

They were carried the succeeding day before the lord-mayor in the same dresses they were taken in. Some were compleatly rigged in gowns, petticoats, head-cloaths, fine laced shoes, furbelowed scaryes and masks; some had riding hoods: some were dressed like milk-maids, others like shepherdesses with green hats, waistcoats and petticoats; and others had their faces patched and painted, and wore very extensive hoop-petticoats, which had been very lately introduced.

After a strict examination, his lordship committed them to the work-house, there to continue at hard labour during pleasure; and, as part of their punishment, ordered them to be publicly conducted through the streets in their female habits: pursuant to which order, the young tribe were carried in pomp to the work-house, and remained there a considerable time, till at last, one of them threatened the marshal with the same punishment for former adventures, and he thereupon applied to my lord-mayor, and produced their discharge.

One of the young gentlemen was so mortified by this commitment, that he died in a few days after his release.—Any that want to be acquainted with the Sodomitical Academy, may be informed where it is, and be graciously introduced by the accomplished Mr. Hitchin*.

* This Hitchin being convicted of sodomitical practices, April, 1727, was sentenced to pay a fine of 20*l.* stand in the pillory, and to suffer six months imprisonment.

We shall now proceed to give some further account of the hero of this narrative. When the thieves with whom he was in league faithfully related to him the particulars of the robberies they had committed, and entrusted to him the disposal of their booties, he assured them that they might safely rely on him for protection against the vengeance of the law: and, indeed, it must be acknowledged that in cases of this nature he would persevere in his endeavours to surmount very great difficulties rather than wilfully falsify his word,

The artful behaviour, and punctuality with which Wild discharged his engagements, obtained him a great share of confidence among thieves of every denomination: in so much that if he caused it to be intimated to them that he was desirous of seeing them; and that they should not be molested they would attend him with the utmost willingness, without entertaining the most distant apprehension of danger, although conscious that he had informations against them, and that their lives were absolutely in his power: but if they presumed to reject his proposals, or proved otherwise refractory, he would address them to the following effect: "I have given you my word that you should come and go in safety, and so you shall: but take care of yourself, for if ever you see me again, you see an enemy."

The great influence that Wild obtained over the thieves will not be thought a very extraordinary matter if it is considered that when he promised to use his endeavours for rescuing them from impending fate he was always desirous, and generally able, to succeed. Such as complied with his measures he would never interrupt; but,

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on the contrary, afford them every encouragement for prosecuting their iniquitous practices; and if apprehended by any other person he seldom failed of procuring their discharge. His most usual method (in desperate cases, and when matters could not be managed with more ease and expedition) was to procure them to be admitted evidences, under pretext that it was in their power to make discoveries of high importance to the public. When they were in prison he frequently attended them, and communicated to them from his own memorandums such particulars as he judged it would be prudent for them to relate to the court. When his accomplices were apprehended and he was not able to prevent their being brought to trial, he contrived stratagems (in which his invention was amazingly fertile) for keeping the principal witnesses out of court; so that the delinquents were generally dismissed in defect of evidence.

Wild was ever a most implacable enemy to those thieves who were hardy enough to reject his terms, and dispose of their stolen effects for their own separate advantage. He was industrious to an extreme in his endeavours to surrender them into the hands of justice; and being acquainted with all their usual places of resort, it was scarcely possible for them to escape his vigilance.

By subjecting those who incurred his displeasure to the punishment of the law he obtained the rewards offered for pursuing them to conviction; greatly extended his ascendancy over the other thieves, who considered him with a kind of awe; and, at the same time, established his character as being a man of great public utility.

It was Jonathan's practice to give instructions to the thieves whom he employed as to the man-

ner in which they should conduct themselves; and if they followed his directions, it was seldom that they failed of success. But if they neglected a strict observance of his rules, or were, through inadvertency or ignorance, guilty of any kind of mismanagement or error in the prosecution of the schemes he had suggested, it was to be understood almost as an absolute certainty that he would procure them to be convicted at the next sessions, deeming them to be unqualified for the profession of roguery.

He was frequently asked, how it was possible that he could carry on the business of restoring stolen effects, and yet not be in league with the robbers; and his replies were always to this purpose: "My acquaintance among thieves is very
 " extensive, and when I receive information of a
 " robbery I make enquiry after the suspected
 " parties, and leave word at proper places that if
 " the goods are left where I appoint the reward
 " shall be paid, and no questions asked. Surely
 " no imputation of guilt can fall upon me; for I
 " hold no interviews with the robbers, nor are the
 " goods given into my possession."

We shall now give our readers a relation of the most remarkable exploits of the hero of these pages! which our account must necessarily include many particulars relating to other notorious characters.

A lady of fortune being on a visit in Piccadilly, her servants, leaving her sedan at the door, went to refresh themselves at a neighbouring public-house. Upon their return the vehicle was not to be found; in consequence of which the men immediately went to Wild, and having informed him of their loss, and complimented him with the usual fee, they were desired to call upon him again in a few days. Upon their second applica-
 tion

tion Wild extorted from them a considerable reward, and then directed them to attend the Chapel in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields on the following morning during the time of prayers. The men went according to the appointment, and under the Piazzas of the Chapel perceived the chair, which upon examination they found to contain the velvet seat, curtains; and other furniture, and that it had received no kind of damage.

A young gentleman named Knap accompanied his mother to Sadler's-Wells on Saturday, March 31, 1716. On their return they were attacked about ten at night near the wall of Gray's-Inn-Gardens by five villains. The young-gentleman was immediately knocked down, and his mother being exceedingly alarmed, called for assistance; upon which a pistol was discharged at her, and she instantly fell down dead. A considerable reward was offered by proclamation in the Gazette for the discovery of the perpetrator of this horrid crime; and Wild was remarkably assiduous in his endeavours to apprehend the offenders. From a description given of some of the villains, Wild immediately judged the gang to be composed of William White, Thomas Thurland, John Chapman, alias Edward Darvel, Timothy Dun, and Isaac Rag.

On Sunday, April 8, in the evening, Wild received intelligence that some of the above-named men were drinking with their prostitutes at a house kept by John Weatherly's in Newton's-Lane. He went to Weatherly's accompanied by his man Abraham, and seized White, whom he brought away about midnight in a hackney coach, and lodged him in the Round-house.

White being secured, information was given to Wild that a man named James Aires was then

at the Bell Inn, Smithfield, in company with a woman of the town. Having an information against Aires, Wild, accompanied by his assistants, repaired to the inn, under the gateway of which they met Thurland, whose person had been mistaken by the informer for that of Aires. Thurland was provided by two brace of pistols, but being suddenly seized, he was deprived of all opportunity of making use of those weapons, and taken into custody.

They went, on the following night to a house in White Horse Alley, Drury-Lane, where they apprehended Chapman, alias Darvel. Soon after the murder of Mrs. Knap, Chapman and others stopped the coach of Thomas Middlethwaite, Esq; but that gentleman escaped being robbed by discharging a blunderbuss and wounding Chapman in the arm, on which the villains retired.

In a short time after this Wild apprehended Isaac Rag at a house which he frequented in St. Giles's, in consequence of an information charging him with a burglary. Being taken before a magistrate, in the course of his examination Rag impeached twenty-two accomplices, charging them with being house-breakers, footpads and receivers of stolen effects; and in consequence hereof he was admitted an evidence for the crown.

This Isaac Rag was convicted of a misdemeanor in January, 1714-15, and sentenced to stand three times in the pillory. He had concealed himself in the dust-hole belonging to the house of Thomas Powell, where being discovered, he was searched, and a pistol, some matches, and a number of pick-lock keys were found in his possession. His intention was evidently to commit a burglary, but as he did not enter the house, he was indicted for a misdemeanor in entering the yard with
intent

JONATHAN WILD—*for various Offences.* 55

intent to steal. He was indicted in October 1715 for a burglary in the house of Elizabeth Stanwell on the 24th of August: but he was acquitted of this charge.

White, Thurland, and Chapman were arraigned on the 18th of May, 1716, at the sessions house in the Old Bailey, on an indictment for assaulting John Knap, Gent. putting him in fear, and taking from him a hat and wig, on the 31st of March, 1716. They were also indicted for the murder of Mary Knap, widow; White by discharging a pistol loaded with powder and bullets, and thereby giving her a wound, of which she immediately died, May 32, 1716. They were a second time indicted for assaulting and robbing John Gough. White was a fourth time indicted with James Ruffel for a burglary in the house of George Barclay. And Chapman was a fourth time indicted for a burglary in the house of Henry Cross. These three offenders were executed at Tyburn on the 8th of June, 1716.

Wild was indefatigable in his endeavours to apprehend Timothy Dun, who had hitherto escaped the hands of justice by removing to a new lodging, where he concealed himself in the most cautious manner. Wild, however, did not despair of discovering this offender, whom he supposed must either perish through want of the necessaries of life, or obtain the means of subsistence by returning to his felonious practices; and so confident was he of success that he made a wager of ten guineas that he would have him in custody before the expiration of an appointed time.

Dun's confinement, at length, became exceedingly irksome to him, and he sent his wife to make enquiries respecting him of Wild, in order to discover whether he was still in danger of being
appre-

apprehended. Upon her departure from Wild's, he ordered one of his people to follow her home. She took water at Black Friars, and landed at the Falcon, but suspecting the man was employed to trace her, she again took water and crossed to White Friars; observing that she was still followed, she ordered the waterman to proceed to Lambeth, and having landed there, it being nearly dark, she imagined she had escaped the observation of Wild's man; and therefore walked immediately home. The man traced her to Maid-Lane, near the Bank-side, Southwark, and perceiving her enter a house, he marked the wall with chalk, and then returned to his employer with an account of the discovery he had made.

Wild, accompanied by his man Abraham, one Riddlefen, and another man, went on the following morning to the house where the woman had been seen to enter. Dun hearing a noise, and thence suspecting that he was discovered, got through a back window on the second floor upon the roof of a pantry, the bottom of which was about eight feet from the ground. Abraham discharged a pistol, and wounded Dun in the arm, in consequence of which he fell from the pantry into the yard: after his fall Riddlefen discharged a pistol and wounded him in the face with small shot. Dun was secured and carried to Newgate, and being tried at the ensuing sessions, he was soon after executed at Tyburn.

Riddlefen was bred to the law, but he entirely neglected that business and abandoned himself to every species of wickedness. His irregular course of life having greatly embarrassed his circumstances, he broke into the chapel at Whitehall, and stole the communion plate. He was convicted of this offence, and received sentence of

of death, but through the exertion of powerful interest a pardon was obtained on condition of transporting himself for the term of seven years. He went to America, but soon returned to England, and had the address to ingratiate himself into the favour of a young lady, daughter to an opulent merchant at Newcastle upon Tyne. Before he could get his wife's fortune, which was considerable, into his hands, he was discovered and committed to Newgate. His wife followed him, and was brought to bed in the prison. Her friends, however, being apprized of her unhappy situation, caused her to return home. He contracted an intimacy with the widow of Richard Revel, one of the turnkeys of Newgate; and being permitted to transport himself again, the woman went with him to Philadelphia, under the character of his wife.

In consequence of a disagreement between them, Mrs. Revel returned, and took a public-house in Golden-Lane: but what became of Riddlefden we have not been able to learn.

One Arnold Powell, a thief of most infamous character being confined in Newgate on a charge of having robbed a house in the neighbourhood of Golden-Square, of property to a great amount, he was visited by Jonathan, who informed him that in consideration of a sum of money he would save his life, adding that if the proposal was rejected he should inevitably die at Tyburn for the offence on account of which he was then imprisoned. The prisoner, however, not believing that it was in Wild's power to do him any injury, bid him defiance. Powell was brought to trial; but through a defect of evidence he was acquitted. Having gained intelligence that Powell had com-

mitted a burglary in the house of Mr. Eastlick, near Fleet-ditch, he caused that gentleman to prosecute the robber. Upon receiving information that a bill was found for the burglary, Powell sent for Wild, and a compromise was effected according to the terms which Wild himself proposed, in consequence of which Powell was assured that his life should be preserved.

Upon the approach of the sessions Wild informed the prosecutor that the first and second days would be employed in other trials, and as he was willing Mr. Eastlick should avoid attending with his witnesses longer than was necessary, he would give timely notice when Powell would be arraigned. But he contrived to have the prisoner put to the bar, and no persons appearing to prosecute, he was ordered to be taken away; but after some time he was again set to the bar, then ordered away, and afterwards put up a third time, proclamation being made each time for the prosecutor to appear. At length the jury were charged with the prisoner, and as no accusation was adduced against him, he was necessarily dismissed; and the court ordered Mr. Eastlick's recognizances to be estreated.

Powell was ordered to remain in custody till the next sessions; there being another indictment against him; and Mr. Eastlick represented the behaviour of Wild to the court, who justly reprimanded him with great severity.

Powell put himself into a salivation in order to avoid being brought to trial the next sessions, but notwithstanding this stratagem he was arraigned and convicted; and executed on the 20th of March 1716-17.

At this time Wild had quitted his apartments at Mrs. Seagoe's, and hired a house adjoining

adjoining to the Cooper's Arms on the opposite side of the Old Bailey. The unexampled villainies of this man were now become an object of so much consequence as to excite the particular attention of the legislature. In the year 1718 an act was passed deeming every person guilty of a capital offence who should accept a reward in consideration of restoring stolen effects without prosecuting the thief.

It was the general opinion that the above law would effectually suppress the iniquitous practices of Wild; but after some interruptions to his proceedings he devised means for evading the law, which were for several years attended with success.

Wild now declined the custom of receiving money from the persons who applied to him, but upon the second or third time of calling informed them that all he had been able to learn respecting their business was, that if a sum of money was left at an appointed place their property would be restored the same day.

Sometimes as the person robbed was returning from Wild's house he was accosted in the street by a man who delivered the stolen effects, at the same time producing a note expressing the sum that was to be paid for them.

In cases wherein he supposed danger was to be apprehended he advised people to advertise that whoever would bring the stolen good to Jonathan Wild should be rewarded, and no questions asked them.

In the two first instances it could not be proved that he either saw the thief, received the goods, or accepted a reward; and in the latter case he acted agreeable to the directions of the injured party, and there appeared no reason to criminate him as being in confederacy with the felons.

When he was asked what would satisfy him for his trouble, he told the persons who had recovered their property that what he had done was without any interested view; but merely from a principle of doing good; that therefore he made no claim: but if he accepted a present he should not consider it as being his due, but as an instance of generosity which he should acknowledge accordingly.

Our adventurer's business increased exceedingly, and he opened an office in Newton's-Lane, to the management of which he appointed his man Abraham. This Israelite proved a remarkably industrious and faithful servant to Jonathan, who intrusted him with matters of the greatest importance.

By an intense application to business Wild much impaired his health, so that he judged it prudent to retire into the country for a short time. He hired a lodging at Dulwich, leaving both offices under the direction of Abraham.

A lady had her pocket picked of bank-notes to the amount of seven thousand pounds. She related the particulars of her robbery to Abraham, who in a few days apprehended three pickpockets, and conducted them to Jonathan's lodgings at Dulwich. Upon their delivering up all the notes, Wild dismissed them. When the lady applied to Abraham he restored her property, and she generously made him a present of four hundred pounds, which he delivered to his employer.

These three pickpockets were afterwards apprehended for some other offences, and transported. One of them carefully concealed a bank note for a thousand pounds in the lining of his coat. On his arrival at Maryland he procured cash

cash for the note, and having purchased his freedom, went to New-York, where he assumed the character of a gentleman.

On account of his business, Wild did not remain long at Dulwich; and being under great inconvenience from the want of Abraham's assistance, he did not keep open the office in Newtoner's-Lane for more than three months.

Some few days after the return of Wild from Dulwich a mercer in Lombard-street ordered a porter to carry to a particular inn a box containing goods to the amount of two hundred pounds. In his way the porter was observed by three thieves, one of whom, being more genteelly dressed than his companions, accosted the man in the following manner: "If you are willing to earn six-pence, my friend, step to the tavern at the end of the street, and ask for the roquelaure I left at the bar: but lest the waiter should scruple giving it you, take my gold watch as a token. Pitch your burden upon this bulk and I will take care of it till your return; but be sure you make haste." The man went to the tavern, and having delivered his message, was informed that the thing he enquired for had not been left there; upon which the porter said, "Since you scruple to trust me, look at this gold watch, which the gentleman gave me to produce as a token." What was called a gold watch, being examined, proved to be only pewter lacquered. In consequence of this discovery the porter hastened back to where he had left the box, but neither that nor the sharpers were to be found.

The porter was, with reason, apprehensive that he should incur his master's displeasure if he related what had happened; and in order to ex-

cuse his folly he determined upon the following stratagem; he rolled himself in the mud, and then went home, saying he had been knocked down and robbed of the goods.

The master of this property applied to Wild, and related to him the story he had been told by his servant. Wild told him he had been deceived as to the manner in which the trunk was lost, and that he should be convinced of it if he would send for his servant. A messenger was dispatched for the porter, and upon his arrival, Abraham conducted him into a room separated from the office only by a slight partition: "Your master
" (said Abraham) has just been here concerning
" the box you lost; and he desired that you
" might be sent for in order to communicate the
" particulars of the robbery. What kind of peo-
" ple were the thieves, and in what manner did
" they take the box away?" In reply the man
said, "Why, two or three fellows knocked me
" down, and then carried off the box." Here-
upon Abraham told him, that "If they knocked
" him down there was but little chance of the
" property being recovered, since that offence
" rendered them liable to be hanged. But (con-
" tinued he) let me prevail upon you to speak
" the truth; for if you persist in a refusal, be
" assured we shall discover it by some other
" means. Pray do you recollect nothing about
" a token? Were you not to fetch a roquelaure
" from a tavern, and did you not produce a gold
" watch as a token to induce the waiter to deli-
" ver it?" Astonished at Abraham's words, the
porter declared, "he believed he was a witch,"
and immediately acknowledged in what manner
he had lost the box.

One of the villains concerned in the above transaction lived in the house formerly inhabited by Wild in Cock-Alley, near Cripplegate. To this place Jonathian and Abraham repaired, and when they were at the door, they overheard a dispute between the man and his wife; during which the former declared that he would set out for Holland the next day. Upon this they forced open the door, and Wild, saying he was under a necessity of preventing his intended voyage, took him into custody, and conducted him to the Compter.

On the following day the goods being returned to the owner, Wild received a handsome reward; and he contrived to procure the discharge of the thief.

On the 23d or 24th of January, 1718-19, Margaret Dodwell and Alice Wright went to Wild's house, and desired to have a private interview with him. Observing one of the women to be with child, he imagined she might want a father to her expected issue: for it was a part of his business to procure persons to stand in the place of the real fathers of children born in consequence of illicit commerce. Being shewn into another room, Dodwell spoke in the following manner: "I do not come, Mr. Wild, to inform you that I have met with any loss, but that I wish to find something. If you will follow my advice you may acquire a thousand pounds, or perhaps many thousands." Jonathan here expressed the utmost willingness to engage in an enterprize so highly lucrative, and the woman proceeded thus: "My plan is this; you must procure two or three stout resolute fellows, who will undertake to rob a house in Wormwood-street, near Bishopsgate. This house is kept
" by

“ by a cane-chair maker, named John Cooke,
 “ who has a lodger, an antient maiden lady, im-
 “ mensely rich; and she keeps her money in a
 “ box in her apartment: she is now gone into
 “ the country to fetch more. One of the men
 “ must find an opportunity of getting into the
 “ shop in the evening, and conceal himself in a
 “ saw-pit there; he may let his companions in
 “ when the family are retired to rest. But it will
 “ be particularly necessary to secure two stout
 “ apprentices and a boy, who lay in the garret.
 “ I wish, however, that no murder may be com-
 “ mitted.” Upon this Wright said, “ Phoo!
 “ phoo! when people engage in matters of this
 “ sort they must manage as well as they can, and
 “ so as to provide for their own safety.” Dod-
 well now resumed her discourse to Jonathan:
 “ The boys being secured no kind of difficulty
 “ will attend getting possession of the old lady’s
 “ money, she being from home, and her room
 “ under that where the boys sleep. In the room
 “ facing that of the old lady, Cooke and his wife
 “ lay: he is a man of remarkable courage, great
 “ caution, therefore, must be observed respect-
 “ ing him; and indeed I think it would be as
 “ well to knock him on the head; for then his
 “ drawers may be rifled, and he is never with-
 “ out money. A woman and a child lay under
 “ the room belonging to the old lady, but I hope
 “ no violence will be offered to them.”

Wild upon hearing of the above proposal, took
 the women into custody, and lodged them in
 Newgate. It is not to be supposed that his
 conduct in this affair proceeded from a principle
 of virtue or justice, but that he declined en-
 gaging in the iniquitous scheme from an ap-
 prehension

JONATHAN WILD—*for various Offences.* 65

pretensions that their design was to draw him into a snare.

Dodwell had lived five months in Mr. Cooke's house, and though she paid no rent, he was too generous to turn her out, or in any manner to oppress her: Wild prosecuted Dodwell and Wright for a misdemeanor, and being found guilty, they were sentenced each to suffer six months imprisonment.

Wild had inserted in his book a gold watch, a quantity of fine lace and other property of considerable value which John Butler had stolen from a house at Newington-Green: but as Butler, instead of coming to account as usual, had declined his felonious practices, and lived on the produce of his booty. Wild, highly enraged at being excluded his share, determined to pursue every possible means for subjecting him to the power of justice.

Wild, having been informed that he lodged at a public-house in Bishopsgate-street, went to the house early one morning, when Butler, hearing him ascending the stairs, jumped out of the window of his room, and climbing over the wall of the yard, got into the street. Wild broke open the door of the room, but was exceedingly disappointed and mortified to find that the man in whom he was in pursuit had escaped. In the mean time Butler ran into a house, the door of which stood open, and descending to the kitchen, where some women were washing, told them he was pursued by a bailiff, and they advised him to conceal himself in the coal hole.

Upon this Jonathan came out of the ale house, and seeing a shop on the opposite side of the way open, enquired of the master; who was a dyer,

whether a man had not taken refuge in his house. The dyer answered in the negative, saying he had not left his shop more than a minute since it had been opened. Wild requested to search the house, and the dyer readily complied. Wild asked the women if they knew whether a man had taken shelter in the house, which they denied; but informing them that the man he sought for was a thief, they said he would find him in the coal-hole.

Wild and his attendants having got a constable searched the place without effect, and they examined every part of the house with no better success. He observed that the villain must have escaped into the street; on which the dyer said, that could not be the case; that if he had entered, he must be in the house, for he had not quitted the shop, and it was impossible that a man could pass to the street without his knowledge; and he advised Wild to search the cellar again. They now went together into the cellar: and after some time spent in searching, the dyer turned up a large vessel, used in his business, and Butler appeared. Wild asked him in what manner he had disposed of the goods he stole from Newington Green, upbraided him as being guilty of ingratitude, and declared that he should certainly be hanged.

Butler, however, knowing the means by which an accommodation might be effected, directed Wild to go to his lodging and look behind the head of the bed, where he would find what would recompence him for his time and trouble. Wild went to the place, and found what perfectly satisfied him; but as Butler had been apprehended in a public manner, the other was under the necessity of taking him before a magistrate, who

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JONATHAN WILD—*for various Offences.* 67

committed him for trial. He was tried the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey: but by the artful management of Wild, instead of being condemned to die, he was only sentenced to transportation.

Being at an inn in Smithfield, Wild observed a large trunk in the yard, and imagining that it contained property of value, hastened home, and instructed one of the thieves he employed to carry it off. The man who performed this business was named Jeremiah Rann, and he was reckoned one of the most dexterous thieves in London. Having dressed himself so as exactly to resemble a porter, he carried away the trunk without being observed.

Mr. Jarvis, a whip-maker by trade, and the proprietor of the trunk, had no sooner discovered his loss than he applied to Wild, who returned him the goods, in consideration of receiving ten guineas. Some time after a disagreement took place between Jonathan and Rann, and the former apprehended the latter, who was tried and condemned to die. The day preceding that on which Rann was executed, he sent for Mr. Jarvis, and related to him all the particulars relative to the truth. Mr. Jarvis threatened Wild with a prosecution, but all apprehensions on that score were soon dissipated by the decease of Mr. Jarvis.

Wild being much embarrassed in endeavouring to find out some method by which he might safely dispose of the property that was not claimed by the respective proprietors, revolved in his mind a variety of schemes; but, at length, he adopted that which follows: he purchased a sloop, in order to transport the goods to Holland and

Flanders, and gave the command of the vessel to a notorious thief named Roger Johnson.

Ostend was the port where this vessel principally traded, but when the goods were not disposed of there, Johnson navigated her to Bruges, Ghent, Brussels, and other places. He brought home lace, wine, brandy, &c. and these commodities were landed in the night, without causing any increase in the business of the revenue officers. This trade was continued about two years, when two pieces of lace being lost, Johnson deducted the value of them from the mate's pay. Violently irritated by this conduct, the mate lodged an information against Johnson for running a great quantity of various kinds of goods. In consequence of this the vessel was exchequered, Johnson cast in damages to the amount of 700*l.* and the commercial proceedings were entirely ruined.

A disagreement had for some time subsisted between Johnson and Thomas Edwards, who kept a house of resort for thieves in Long-lane, concerning the division of some booty. Meeting one day in the Strand, they charged each other with felony, and were both taken into custody. Wild bailed Johnson, and Edwards was not prosecuted. The latter had no sooner recovered his liberty than he gave information against Wild, whose private warehouses being searched, a great quantity of stolen goods were found. Wild arrested Edwards in the name of Johnson, to whom he pretended the goods belonged, and he was taken to the Marshalsea, but the next day procured bail. Edwards, determined to wreak revenge upon Johnson, for some time industriously sought for him in vain; but meeting him accidentally in Whitechapel-road he gave him into the custody
of

JONATHAN WILD—*for various Offences.* 69

of a peace officer, who conducted him to an adjacent ale-house. Johnson sent for Wild, who immediately attended, accompanied by his man Quilt Arnold. Wild promoted a riot, during which Johnson availed himself of an opportunity of effecting an escape.

Information being made against Wild for the rescue of Johnson, he judged it prudent to abscond, and he remained concealed for three weeks, at the end of which time, supposing all danger to be over, he returned to his house. Learning that Wild had returned, Mr. Jones, high-constable of Holborn division, went to his house in the Old Bailey, on the 15th of February, 1723, and apprehended him and Quilt Arnold, and took them before Sir John Fryer, who committed them to Newgate on a charge of having assisted in the escape of Johnson.

On Wednesday the 24th of the same month, Wild moved to be either admitted to bail, or discharged, or brought to trial that sessions. On the following Friday a warrant of detainer was produced against him in court, and to it was affixed the following articles of information.

I. “ That for many years past he had been a confederate with great numbers of highwaymen, pick-pockets, house-breakers, shop-lifters, and other thieves.

II. “ That he had formed a kind of corporation of thieves, of which he was the head or director, and that notwithstanding his pretended services, in detecting and prosecuting offenders, he procured such only to be hanged as concealed their booty, or refused to share it with him.

III. “ That he had divided the town and country into so many districts, and appointed distinct gangs

gangs for each, who regularly accounted with him for their robberies. That he had also a particular set to steal at churches in time of divine service: and likewise other moving detachments to attend at court, on birth-days, balls, &c. and at both houses of parliament, circuits, and country fairs.

IV. "That the persons employed by him were for the most part felons-convict, who had returned from transportation before the time for which they were transported, was expired; and that he made choice of them to be his agents, because they could not be legal evidences against him, and because he had it in his power to take from them what part of the stolen goods he thought fit, and otherwise use them ill, or hang them as he pleased.

V. "That he had from time to time supplied such convicted felons with money and cloaths, and lodged them in his own house, the better to conceal them: particularly some, against whom there are now information for counterfeiting and diminishing broad pieces of guineas.

VI. "That he had not only been a receiver of stolen goods, as well as writings of all kinds, for near fifteen years past, but had frequently been a confederate, and robbed along with the above mentioned convicted felons.

VII. "That, in order to carry on these vile practices, to gain some credit with the ignorant multitude, he usually carried a short silver staff, as a badge of authority from the government, which he used to produce, when he himself was concerned in robbing.

VIII. "That he had under his care and direction, several warehouses for receiving and concealing stolen goods: and also a ship for carrying
off

JONATHAN WILD—*for various Offences.* 71

off jewels, watches, and other valuable goods; to Holland, where he had a superannuated thief for his factor.

IX. "That he kept in pay several artists to make alterations, and transform watches, seals, snuff-boxes, rings, and other valuable things, that they might not be known, several of which he used to present to such persons as he thought might be of service to him.

X. "That he seldom or never helped the owners to the notes and papers they had lost, unless he found them able exactly to specify and describe them, and then often insisted on more than half the value.

XI. "And lastly, it appears that he has often sold human blood, by procuring false evidence to swear persons into facts they were not guilty of; sometimes to prevent them from being evidences against himself, and at other times for the sake of the great reward given by the government."

The information of Mr. Jones was also read in court, setting forth that two persons would be produced to accuse the prisoner of capital offences. The men alluded to in the above affidavit were John Follard and Thomas Butler, who had been convicted: but it being deemed expedient to grant them a pardon on condition of their appearing in support of a prosecution against Wild, they pleaded to the same, and were remanded to Newgate till the next sessions.

Saturday the 10th of April, Wild by council moved that his trial might be postponed till the ensuing sessions, and an affidavit made by the prisoner was read in court purporting that till the preceding evening he was entirely ignorant of a bill having been found against him; that he
knew

knew not what offence was charged against him; and was unable to procure two material witnesses, one of them living near Brentford, and the other in Somersetshire. This was opposed by the council for the crown, who urged that it would be improper to defer his trial on so frivolous a pretext as that made by the prisoner; that the affidavit expressed an ignorance of what offence he was charged with, and yet declared that two nameless persons were material witnesses.

Wild now informed the court that his witnesses were ——— Hays, at the Packhorse, on Turnham-green, and ——— Wilson, a clothier at Frome: adding that he had heard it slightly intimated that he was indicted for a felony committed upon a person named Stetham. The prisoner's council moved that the names of Hays and Wilson might be inserted in the affidavit, and that it should be again sworn to by the prisoner. The council for the prosecution observed that justice would not be denied the prisoner, though it could not be reasonably expected that he would be allowed any extraordinary favours or indulgences. Follard and Butler were, at length, bound each in the penalty of 300*l.* to appear at the ensuing sessions, when it was agreed that Wild's fate should be determined.

Saturday May the 15th, 1725, Jonathan Wild was indicted for privately stealing in the house of Catherine Stetham, in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, fifty yards of lace, the property of the said Catherine, on the 22d of January, 1724-5. He was a second time indicted for feloniously receiving of the said Catherine on the 10th of March ten guineas on account, and under pretence of restoring the said lace, without apprehend-

hending and prosecuting the felon who stole the property.

Previous to his trial, Wild distributed among the jurymen, and other persons who were walking on the leads before the court, a great number of printed papers, under the title of “ A List of
 “ Persons discovered, apprehended, and convicted
 “ of several Robberies on the High-Way : and
 “ also for Burglary and House Breaking ; and
 “ also for returning from Transportation ; by Jo-
 “ nathan Wild.” This list contained the names of thirty-five for robbing on the high-way ; twenty-two for house-breaking ; and ten for returning from transportation. To the list was annexed the following *Nota Bene*.

“ Several others have been also convicted for the
 “ like crimes, but, remembering not the persons
 “ names who had been robbed, I omit the crimi-
 “ nals names.

“ Please to observe, that several others have
 “ been also convicted for shop-lifting, picking of
 “ pockets, &c. by the female sex, which are ca-
 “ pital crimes, and which are too tedious to be
 “ inserted here, and the prosecutors not willing
 “ of being exposed.

“ In regard therefore of the numbers above
 “ convicted, some, that have yet escaped justice,
 “ are endeavouring to take away the life of the
 “ said

“ JONATHAN WILD.”

The prisoner being put to the bar, he request-
 ed that the witnesses might be examined apart,
 which was complied with. Henry Kelly de-
 posed that by the prisoner's direction he went, in

company with Margaret Murphy, to the prosecutor's shop under pretence of buying some lace; that he stole a tin box, and gave it to Murphy in order to deliver to Wild, who waited in the street for the purpose of receiving their booty, and refusing them if they should be taken into custody; that they returned together to Wild's house, where the box being opened was found to contain eleven pieces of lace; that Wild said he could afford to give no more than five guineas as he should not be able to get more than ten guineas for returning the goods to the owner; that he received, as his share, three guineas and a crown, and that Murphy had what remained of the five guineas.

Margaret Murphy was next sworn, and her evidence corresponded in every particular with that of the former witness*.

Catherine Stetham, the elder, deposed that between three and four in the afternoon of the 22d of January, a man and woman came to her house pretending that they wanted to purchase some lace; that she shewed them two or three parcels, to the quality and price of which they objected: and that in about three hours after they had left the shop, she missed a tin box containing a quantity of lace, the value of which she estimated at 50l.

The prisoner's council observed that it was their opinion he could not be legally convicted because the indictment positively expressed that *he stole* the lace *in* the house, whereas it had been proved in evidence that he was at a considerable distance when the fact was committed. They admitted that he might be liable to conviction as an acces-

* Margaret Murphy was executed on the 27th of March, 1728, for stealing plate.

fary before the fact, or guilty of receiving the property, knowing it to be stolen, but conceived that he could not be deemed guilty of a capital felony unless the indictment declared (as the act directs) that he did *assist, command, or hire.*

Lord Raymond presided when Wild was tried, and in summing up the evidence his Lordship observed that the guilt of the prisoner was a point beyond all dispute; but that as a similar case was not to be found in the law books it became his duty to act with great caution; he was not perfectly satisfied that the construction urged by the council for the crown could be put upon the indictment; and as the life of a fellow-creature was at stake, recommended the prisoner to the mercy of the jury, who brought in their verdict NOT GUILTY.

Wild was indicted a second time for an offence committed during his confinement in Newgate. The indictment being opened by the council for the crown, the following clause in an act passed in the 4th year of Geo. I. was ordered to be read.

“ And, whereas, there are divers persons who
 “ have secret acquaintance with felons, and who
 “ make it their business to help persons to their
 “ stolen goods, and by that means gain money
 “ from them, which is divided between them
 “ and the felons whereby they greatly encourage
 “ such offenders. Be it enacted, by the authority
 “ aforesaid, that wherever any person taketh mo-
 “ ney or reward, directly or indirectly, under
 “ pretence, or upon account of helping any per-
 “ son or persons to any stolen goods or chattels,
 “ every such person so taking money or reward as
 “ aforesaid, (unless such person do apprehend, or
 “ cause to be apprehended, such felon who stole
 “ the same, and give evidence against him) shall

“ be guilty of felony, according to the nature of
 “ the felony committed in stealing such goods
 “ and in such and the same manner, as if such
 “ offender had stolen such goods and chattels, in
 “ the manner, and with such circumstances as the
 “ the same were stolen.”

Catherine Steham deposed to the following effect: “ A box of lace being stolen out of my shop, on the 22d of January, I went in the evening of the same day to the prisoner’s house, in order to employ him in recovering my goods; but not finding him at home, I advertised them, offering a reward of fifteen guineas, and saying no questions should be asked. The advertisement proved ineffectual: I therefore went again to the prisoner’s house, and by his desire gave the best description that I was able of the persons I suspected to be the robbers; and promising to make enquiry after my property, he desired me to call again in two or three days. I attended him a second time, when he informed me that he had learnt something concerning my goods, and expected more particular information in a short time. During this conversation we were joined by a man, who said he had reason to suspect that one Kelley, who had been tried for circulating plated shillings, was concerned in stealing the lace. I went to the prisoner again on the day he was apprehended, and informed him that though I had advertised a reward of no more than fifteen, I would give twenty or twenty-five guineas, rather than not recover my property; upon which he desired me not to be in too great a hurry, and said the people who had the lace were gone out of town, but that he would contrive to foment a disagreement between them, by which means he should be enabled to recover the goods on more easy terms. He sent me
 word,

word, on the 10th of March, that if I would attend him in Newgate, and bring ten guineas with me, the goods should be returned. I went to the prisoner, who desired a person to call a porter, and then gave me a letter, saying it was the direction he had received where to apply for the lace. I told him I could not read, and gave the letter to the man he had sent for, who appeared to be a ticket porter. The prisoner then told me I must give the porter ten guineas that he might pay the people who had my goods, otherwise they would not return them. I gave the money, and the man went out of the prison; but in a short time he returned with a box sealed up: though it was not the box I lost, I opened it, and found all my lace, excepting one piece. I asked the prisoner what satisfaction he expected; and he answered, Not a farthing; I have no interested views in matters of this kind, but act from a principle of serving people under misfortune. I hope I shall be soon able to recover the other piece of lace, and to return you the ten guineas, and perhaps cause the thief to be apprehended. For the service I can render you, I shall only expect your prayers. I have many enemies, and know not what will be the consequence of this imprisonment."

The prisoner's council argued, that as Murphy had deposed that Wild, Kelley, and herself were concerned in the felony, the former could by no means be considered as coming within the description of the act on which the indictment was founded; for the act in question was not meant to operate against the actual perpetrators of felony, but to subject such persons to punishment as held a correspondence with felons.

The council for the crown observed that from the evidence adduced no doubt could remain of
the

the prisoner's coming under the meaning of the act, since it had been proved that he had engaged in combinations with felons, and had not discovered them.

The judge recapitulated the arguments inforced on each side, and was of opinion that the case of the prisoner was clearly within the meaning of the act; for it was plain that he had maintained a secret correspondence with felons, and received money for restoring stolen goods to the owners, which money was divided between him and the felons, whom he did not prosecute. The jury pronounced him guilty, and he was executed at Tyburn, on Monday the 24th of May, 1725.

Wild, when he was under sentence of death, frequently declared that he thought the service he had rendered the public in returning stolen goods to the owners, and apprehending felons, was so great as justly to entitle him to the royal mercy. He said, that had he considered his case as being desperate he should have taken timely measures for inducing some powerful friends, at Wolverhampton, to intercede in his favour; and that he thought it not unreasonable to entertain hopes of obtaining a pardon through the interest of some of the dukes, earls, and other persons of high distinction who had recovered their property through his means. It was observed to him, that he had trained up a great number of thieves, and must be conscious that he had not inforced the execution of the law from any principle of virtue, but had sacrificed the lives of a great number of his accomplices in order to provide for his own safety, and to gratify his desire of revenge against those who had incurred his displeasure.

He was observed to be in an unsettled state of mind, and being asked whether he knew the cause there-

thereof, he said he attributed his disorder to the many wounds he had received in apprehending felons, and particularly mentioned two fractures of his skull, and his throat being cut by Blue-skin.

He declined attending divine service in the chapel, excusing himself on account of his infirmities, and saying, that there were many people highly exasperated against him, and therefore he could not expect, but that his devotions would be interrupted by their insulting behaviour. He said he had fasted four days, which had greatly increased his weakness. He asked the Ordinary the meaning of the words, "Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree," and what was the state of the soul immediately after its departure from the body? He was advised to direct his attention to matters of more importance, and sincerely to repent of the crimes he had committed.

By his desire the Ordinary administered the sacrament to him, and during the ceremony he appeared to be somewhat attentive and devout. The evening preceding the day on which he suffered he enquired of the Ordinary whether self-murder could be deemed a crime, since many of the Greeks and Romans who had put a period to their own lives were so honourably mentioned by historians: He was informed that the most wise and learned heathens accounted those guilty of the greatest cowardice who had not fortitude sufficient to maintain themselves in the station to which they had been appointed by the providence of Heaven; and that the christian doctrine condemned the practice of suicide in the most express terms.

He pretended to be convinced that self-murder was a most impious crime: but about two in the morning he endeavoured to put an end to his life
by

by drinking laudanum: however, on account of the largeness of the dose and his having fasted for a considerable time, no other effect was produced than drowsiness, or a kind of stupefaction. The situation of Wild being observed by two of his fellow-prisoners, they advised him to rouse his spirits that he might be able to attend to the devotional exercises, and taking him by the arms they obliged him to walk, which he could not have done alone, being much afflicted with the gout. The exercise revived him a little, but he presently became exceedingly pale, then grew very faint; a profuse sweating ensued, and soon afterwards his stomach discharged the greatest part of the laudanum.

Though he was now somewhat recovered he was nearly in a state of insensibility, and in this situation he was put into the cart and conveyed to Tyburn.

In his way to the place of execution the populace treated this offender with remarkable severity, incessantly pelting him with stones, dirt, &c. and execrating him as the most consummate villain that had ever disgraced human nature.

Upon his arrival at Tyburn he appeared to be much recovered from the effects of the laudanum; and the executioner informed him that a reasonable time would be allowed him for preparing himself for the important change that he must soon experience. He continued sitting some time in the cart; but the populace were, at length, so enraged at the indulgence shewn him, that they outrageously called to the executioner to perform the duties of his office, violently threatening him with instant death if he presumed any longer to delay. He judged it prudent to comply with their
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JONATHAN WILD.—*for various Offences.* 81

mands, and when he began to prepare for the execution, the popular clamour ceased.

About two o'clock on the following morning the remains of Wild were interred in St. Pancras Church-yard: but a few nights afterwards the body was taken up (for the use of the surgeons, as it was supposed.) At midnight a hearse and six was waiting at the end of Fig-lane, where the coffin was found the next day.

Wild had by the woman he married at Wolverhampton, a son about 19 years old, who came to London a short time before the execution of his father. He was a youth of so violent and ungovernable a disposition that it was judged prudent to confine him while his father was conveyed to Tyburn, lest he should create a tumult and prove the cause of mischief among the populace. Soon after the death of his father he accepted a sum of money to become a servant in one of our plantations.

Besides the woman to whom he was married at Wolverhampton, five others lived with him under the pretended sanction of matrimony; the first was Mary Milliner; the second Judith Nun, by whom he had a daughter; the third Sarah Grigson, alias Perrin; the fourth Elizabeth Man, who cohabited with him above five years; the fifth, whose real name is uncertain, married some time after the death of Wild.

History cannot furnish an instance of such complicated villany as was shewn in the character of Jonathan Wild, who possessed abilities, which had they been properly cultivated, and directed into a right course would have rendered him a respectable and useful member of society; but it is to be lamented that the profligate turn of mind that distinguished him in the early part of his life, dis-

posed him to adopt the maxims of the abandoned people with whom he became acquainted.

During his apprenticeship Wild was observed to be fond of reading, but as his finances would not admit of his buying books, his studies were confined to such as casually fell in his way; and they unfortunately happened to contain those abominable doctrines to which thousands have owed the ruin of both their bodies and souls. In short, at an early period of life he imbibed the principles of Deism and Atheism, and the sentiments he thus early contracted he strictly adhered to nearly till the period of his dissolution.

Voluminous writings were formerly beyond the purchase of persons in the inferior classes of life: but the great encouragement that has of late years been given to the publication of weekly numbers has so liberally diffused the streams of knowledge, that but few even of the lower ranks of mankind, can be sensible of any impediment to the gratification of the desire of literary acquisitions*.

* It seems to be the general opinion that no periodical work has hitherto appeared so admirably calculated to promote universal knowledge as HOWARD'S NEW and COMPLETE DICTIONARY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES. From the specimen that has been given in the numbers already published, it may be reasonably expected that this work will prove an invaluable acquisition to the public. The superfluities of former Dictionaries are carefully expunged; every improvement and discovery to be found in the works of foreign writers and those of our own nation, and an extensive variety of valuable materials furnished by the Royal-society, the Royal Academy, &c. are introduced

Wild trained up and instructed his dependants in the practice of villany, and when they became the objects of his displeasure he laboured with unremitting assiduity to procure their deaths. Thus his temporal and private interest sought gratification at the expence of every religious and moral obligation. We must conceive it to be impossible for a man acknowledging the existence of an Almighty Being to implore his attention upon devising the means of corrupting his fellow creatures, and cutting them off “even in the blossom” of their sins;” but the Atheist having nothing after this world either to hope or fear, is only careful to secure himself from detection, and the success of one iniquitous scheme naturally induces him to engage in others, and the latter actions are generally attended with circumstances of more aggravated guilt than the former.

There is a principle implanted in our nature that will exert itself when we are approaching to

duced; and by adopting a plan entirely New, which perfectly agrees with the energy and perspicuity of elegant composition, the Author will comprize the whole work in 150 numbers. This work is accurately printed in LARGE-FOLIO on a fine paper and an entirely new letter; and the plates are beautifully finished from designs of the most capital artists. The plan of the NEW COMPLETE DICTIONARY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES is so comprehensive that it will include an universal system of knowledge rendered familiar to every capacity: and the subscribers may congratulate themselves on the possession of a book by a reference to which they may immediately acquire full information on any subject within the sphere of human comprehension.

a state of dissolution, and impress our minds with a full confidence in the existence of an eternal God, who will reward or punish us according to our desert or demerits. Thus it happened to the miserable subject of these pages, who when he had relinquished the hope of surviving the sentence of the law, anxiously enquired into the meaning of several texts of scripture, and concerning the intermediate state of the soul. The horrors of his guilt rushed upon his conscience with such force that reflections became intolerable, and instead of repenting of his enormous crimes, he employed his last moments that were enlightened by reason (the distinguished characteristic of humanity) in meditating the means of self-destruction!

Narrative of the Lives, Trials, and Execution of EDWARD BURNWORTH, WILLIAM BLEWIT, EMANUEL DICKENSON, THOMAS BERRY, JOHN LEGEE, and JOHN HIGGS, who were hanged for Murder.

EDWARD BURNWORTH was the son of a painter in Moorfields, and served an apprenticeship to a buckie-maker in Grub-street; but he had not been long out of his time before he connected himself with a set of villains who subsisted by their depredations on the public.

Burnworth having distinguished himself by cudgel-playing, at a place in Moorfields, which was called the RING, was thought to exceed all his dissolute companions in the practice of that vulgar exercise. He now commenced pick-pocket, and then by a very natural gradation, proceeded to the commission of foot-pad robberies and house-breaking.

In the exercise of his profession as a pick-pocket he used to frequent every public place in and near the city. He used to steal snuff-boxes, watches,

watches, handkerchiefs, pocket-books, &c. At length he was apprehended, and lodged in New Prison; but he found means to escape from thence, and renewed his former occupation: but he now proceeded with more circumspection than before, usually lounging about the fields near London during the day-time, and returning to town at night in search of prey. On the whole, however, he was a remarkable daring villain, and constantly carried pistols about him to aid him to make a readier escape in case of detection.

Burnworth going into a public-house in the Old Bailey, the landlord told him that Quilt Arnold (one of Jonathan Wild's men) who had been seeking him some days, was then in the house. Hereupon Burnworth went backwards to a room where Arnold was sitting alone; and presenting a pistol, upbraided him for endeavouring to injure his old acquaintance; for Arnold had heretofore been a brother thief. Burnworth now called for a glass of brandy, and putting some gun-powder in it compelled the other to drink it on his knees, and swear that he would never seek for him in future.

Burnworth was once whipped at the cart's tail for a theft: notwithstanding which he continued his practices till he committed the murder for which his life paid the forfeit; the particulars of which will be mentioned in the sequel of this account.

WILLIAM BLEWIT was the son of poor parents near Cripplegate, who apprenticed him to a perfumer of gloves; but before he had served above three years of his time he associated with ill company, and became a pickpocket and a house-breaker.

Having been apprehended and lodged in Newgate, he was tried for an offence, of which he was convicted, and sentenced to be transported for seven

seven years; and in consequence of this sentence was put on board a ship in the river, in company with several other felons. Some of these had procured saws and files to be concealed in cakes of gingerbread; and by means of these instruments they hoped to effect their escape before the ship sailed for the Thames.

Blewit having heard of what was intended, discovered the plot to the captain of the vessel, who seized the implements, and gave Blewit his liberty, as a reward for the information*. Blewit was no sooner at large, than he returned to his old practices, in consequence of which he was apprehended, and committed to Newgate.

At the following sessions he was indicted for returning from transportation: and being convicted, received sentence of death: but he pleaded the service he had done by preventing the escape of the prisoners in the river: on which he was reprieved till the return of the vessel from America; when his allegations being found to be true, he was pardoned, on the condition of transporting himself. This, however, he neglected to do; but got into the company of Burnworth and his other companions.

EMANUEL DICKENSON was descended of more reputable parents than any of his accomplices, his father being an officer in the army; but dying while he was an infant, his mother was reduced to such extreme poverty that she was totally unable
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* This is the exact account which is transmitted to us; we must however confess it very extraordinary that the captain of a transport-ship could be authorized to give liberty to a felon once committed to his care.

to educate her children; so that Emanuel and his three sisters took to irregular courses.

Dickenson was a pickpocket from his early youth, and continued that practice several years, but at length was taken into custody for stealing a gentleman's hat from his head in the Strand; and being convicted, was sentenced to be transported. His mother, anxious to save him from the ignominy of being sent abroad as a felon, applied to a general officer, to exert himself in favour of her son. This the general did so effectually, that he obtained a pardon; but Dickenson immediately renewed his own practices, in company with Burnworth, and the rest of the gang.

We have not been able to enquire any farther particulars of Berry, Legee, and Higgs, than that they had been thieves almost from their infancy, and continued their illicit practices till they were concerned in the crime for which their lives paid the forfeit, and of which we are now about to recite the particulars.

A gin-shop was kept in the Mint, Southwark, by a man named Ball, whose character was not superior to that of Jonathan Wild. Ball, who had been himself a thief, threatened that he would cause Burnworth to be taken into custody. The latter, hearing of this circumstance, resolved on the murder of Ball, and engaged his accomplices in the execution of the plan: but the time previous to the commission of the murder was spent in the following manner.

Having passed the day in drinking at Islington, Burnworth proposed to break open and rob the house of a magistrate in Clerkenwell, who had distinguished himself by his diligence in causing thieves to be apprehended: and this robbery was proposed more from motives of revenge than of gain.

Having broke open the house, they robbed it of what they thought a large quantity of plate, which they carried to Copenhagen-house;* but on examining the supposed treasure, they discovered that it was only brass covered with silver, on which they threw it into the New River.

This being done, they spent the greatest part of the following day in drinking at different houses; and while they were thus carousing, one of their associates came and informed them that some peace-officers were waiting for them in Chick-Lane, a place they greatly frequented. Thus informed, they kept in a body, and concealed their pistols and cutlasses under their cloaths.

On the approach of evening they ventured towards London, and having got as far as Turnmill-street, the keeper of Clerkenwell-Bridewell happening to see them, called to Burnworth, and said he wanted to speak with him. Burnworth hesitated; but the other assuring him that he intended no injury, and the thief being confident that his associates would not desert him, swore he did not regard the keeper whom he advanced to meet with the pistol in his hand, the other miscreants waiting on the opposite side of the street, armed with cutlasses and pistols.

This singular spectacle attracting the attention of the populace, a considerable crowd soon gathered round them; on which Burnworth joined his companions, who now thought their safest plan would be to retreat towards the fields; wherefore they kept together, and facing the people, retired in a body, presenting their pistols, and swear-

* A public-house in the fields between Islington and Kentish Town, which was at that time a house of ill fame.

swearing that they would fire on any one who should offer to molest them.

In this way they retreated as far as Battle-Bridge, and then making a circle round the fields, entered London by a different avenue, and going to Blackfriars, took a boat and crossed the Thames.

Having landed at the Bankside, Southwark, they went to a place called the Music-house, which was at that time much frequented by people of dissolute and abandoned characters. Having continued drinking some time at this house, they went into St. George's Fields, where Burnworth incited them to go to the house of Ball and murder him, on account of the threat that he had issued.

All the company except Higgs readily agreed to the perpetration of this enormous crime; but he said he would have no concern in murder: however, the others forced him with them, and it was dark when they arrived at Ball's house, where Higgs waited at the door, while the rest went in.

Ball's wife told them he was at an alehouse in the neighbourhood, but she would go and call him, which she accordingly did: and he no sooner got to the door of his own house, than Burnworth seized him, and dragged him in, reproaching him with treachery in intending to betray his old acquaintance.

As the desperadoes were armed with pistols, Ball trembled with apprehension for his life, and dropping on his knees, earnestly intreated that they would not murder him: but Burnworth, swearing that he should never obtain the reward for betraying him, shot him dead on the spot, while he was thus begging for his life.

The murder was no sooner perpetrated than they all sallied forth into the street; when Blewit supposing that the report of the pistol might alarm the neighbours, fired another pistol into the air, saying, "We are now safe in town, and there is no fear of rogues:" thereby intimating that they had come out of the country, whither they had taken pistols for their protection.

Higgs had left his companions as soon as the murder was committed; but on their way to the Falcon Stairs, where they intended to take a boat, they met with him again, when Burnworth proposed to murder him, as they had done Ball; but Marjoram, (an old acquaintance whom they had picked up) interceded for his life; which was granted, on condition that, for the future, he should behave with greater courage.

They now crossed the Thames, and went to the Boar's-head Tavern in Smithfield, where, not being known, they were under no apprehension of detection. Here they remained till ten at night, and then parted into different gangs to commit separate robberies.

Some days after this Dickenson, Berry, and Blewit, having obtained a large booty, went to Harwich, and sailed in the packet-boat, to Holland.

In the mean time Higgs went to Portsmouth, and entered on board the Monmouth man of war; but a particular circumstance occasioned his being taken into custody. Higgs's brother happening to meet the mate of a ship in London, gave him a letter to deliver to him. The mate going accidentally into a public-house in Smithfield, heard the name of Higgs mentioned by some people who were talking of the murder; among whom was a watchman, whom the mate told that he had a letter

ter to carry to one Higgs. On this the watchman went to the under secretary of state, and mentioned what he had heard and suspected. Hereupon the watchman and two of the king's messengers being dispatched to Portsmouth, Higgs was taken into custody, brought to London, and committed to Newgate.

Still, however, Burnworth and some of his associates continued to defy the laws in the most open manner. Having stopped the earl of Harborough's chair, during broad day-light, in Piccadilly, one of the chairmen pulled out a pole of the chair and knocked down one of the villains, while the earl came out, drew his sword, and put the rest to flight; but not before they had raised their wounded companion, whom they took off with them.

The number of atrocious violations of the law which now took place daily, alarmed all those who had a regard to order and good government; and the king issued a proclamation for apprehending the offenders, and a pardon was offered to any one who would impeach his accomplices, except Burnworth, who was justly considered as the principal of the gang.

Marjoram happened to be drinking at a public-house in Whitecross-street one night, when a gentleman went in, and read the royal proclamation. The company present knew nothing of Marjoram; but he apprehended that some of his accomplices would become an evidence if he did not, applied to a constable in Smithfield, and desired him to take him before the lord-mayor.

By this time the evening was far advanced; on which Marjoram was lodged in the Compter for that night, and being taken to Guildhall the next day, he discovered all the circumstances that he

knew; and informing the lord-mayor that Legee lodged in Whitecross-street, he was almost immediately apprehended, and committed to Newgate the same day.

The circumstance of Marjoram having turned evidence being the public topic of conversation, John Barton, a fellow who had been some time connected with Burnworth and his gang, provided a loaded pistol, and placing himself near Goldsmith's-Hall, took an opportunity, when the officers were conducting Marjoram before the lord-mayor, to fire at him; but Marjoram observing him advancing, stooped down, so that the ball grazed his back only. The suddenness of this action, and the surprize it occasioned, gave Barton an opportunity of effecting his escape.

About this time one Wilson, who had likewise belonged to the gang, quitted London; but being apprehended about two years afterwards, he was hanged at Kingston in Surry. In the mean time Burnworth continued at large, committing depredations on the public, and appearing openly in the streets, notwithstanding the proclamation issued to apprehend him.†

A short time after Marjoram had given his information, Burnworth broke open the house of a distiller in Clare-market, and carried off a great number of bank-notes, in consequence of which another proclamation was issued, and three hundred pounds were offered for taking him into custody: but notwithstanding this he still appeared
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† This circumstance proves that the police of those times was not equal to that of the present. If the spirit and activity of our present magistrates had been exerted, such an atrocious offender as Burnworth would not have escaped the hands of justice for three days.

at large, and gave the following, among other proofs of his audacity. Sitting down at the door of a public-house in Holborn, where he was well known, he called for a pint of beer and drank it; holding a pistol in his hand by way of protection; he then paid for his beer, and went off with the greatest apparent unconcern.

At this time Burnworth kept company with two infamous women, one of whom was the wife of a man named Leonard, who having belonged to the gang, thought to recommend himself to mercy by the apprehension of Burnworth. Having told his wife what he intended she informed some magistrates of the proposed plan, and they sent six men to assist in carrying it into execution.

Shrove-Tuesday being the day appointed, the men waited at a public-house till they should receive a hint to proceed. About six in the evening Burnworth went to the lodgings of the women, to which there was a back-door that opened into a yard. It was proposed to have pancakes for supper, and while one of the women was frying them, the other went to the public-house for some beer: and on her return pretended to bolt the door, but designedly missed the staple; and in that moment the six men rushed in, and seized Burnworth, before he had time to make any resistance, though he had a pistol in the pocket of his great-coat.

Being carried before three magistrates, he was committed to Newgate; but his accomplices were so infamously daring as to attempt the murder of the woman who had occasioned his apprehension: a pistol was fired at her as she was entering the door of her own house; but this affair being communicated to the magistrates, some men were appointed

pointed to watch nightly for her protection, till the desperadoes gave over their attempts.

Burnworth, while in Newgate, projected the following scheme of escape: Some person having furnished him with an iron crow, he engaged some others of the prisoners, who assisted him in pulling stones out of the wall, while others sung Psalms, that the keepers might not hear what they were doing.

On the day following this transaction, which was carried on during the night, five condemned criminals were to be executed; but when the jailors came to take them out, there was such an immense quantity of stones and rubbish to remove, that it was two o'clock in the afternoon before the criminals could be got out of the cells.

This scheme of Burnworth occasioned his closer confinement. He was removed into a room known by the name of the Bilboes, and loaded with a pair of the heaviest irons in the prison; but he intended to have made his escape even from this place; and being furnished with files and saws from some of his acquaintance, he worked his way through a wall into a room in which were some women prisoners, one of whom acquainting the keeper with what had happened, Burnworth was chained down to the floor of the condemned hold.

Application was made to the Secretary of State to take measures for the apprehension of Berry, Dickenson, and Blewit, who had gone over to Holland; and hereupon instructions were sent to the English ambassador at the Hague, empowering him to request of the States General that the offenders might be delivered up to justice, if found any where within their jurisdiction.

One of the king's messengers carried over these instructions; and the ambassador making the necessary application, orders were issued accordingly, in consequence of which Blewit was apprehended at a public-house in Rotterdam; but Dickenfon and Berry had taken refuge on board a ship at the Brill. Blewit was lodged in the state-house prison, and then the officers who took him went immediately on board the ship, and seized his two accomplices, whom they brought to the same place of confinement.

They were chained to the floor till the English ambassador requested permission to send them home, which being readily obtained, they were guarded to the packet-boat by a party of soldiers, and were chained together as soon as they were put on board. When they arrived at the Nore, they were met by two of the king's messengers, who conducted them up the river; and these wretches observing a press-gang on the Thames, defied them to impress them; so hardened were they in guilt, and so thoughtless of their approaching fate.

On the arrival of the vessel which brought them, they were put into another boat opposite the Tower, which was guarded by three other boats, in each of which was a corporal and several soldiers. In this manner they were conducted to Westminster, where they were examined by two magistrates, who committed them to Newgate, to which they were escorted by a party of the foot guards.

On sight of Burnworth they seemed to pity his situation, while he, in a hardened manner, expressed his happiness at their safe arrival from Holland.

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On the approach of the ensuing assizes for the county of Surry, they were handcuffed, put into a waggon, and in this manner a party of dragoons conducted them to Kingston. Nothing could equal the insolence of their behaviour on their leaving Newgate. They told the spectators that it would become them to treat gentlemen of their profession with respect, especially as they were going a journey. They likewise said to the dragoons, that they expected to be protected from injury on the road; and during their journey they behaved with equal indifference and insolence, throwing money among the populace, and diverting themselves by seeing them scramble for it.

A boy having picked up a halfpenny, one of a handful which Blewit had thrown among the people, told him that he would keep that halfpenny, and have his name engraved on it, as sure as he would be hanged at Kingston; on which Blewit gave him a shilling to pay the expence of engraving, and enjoined him to keep his promise; and it is affirmed that the boy actually did so.

On their arrival at Kingston they were put in the prison called the Stockhouse, where they were chained to the floor; and on the following day bills of indictment being found against them, they were brought up for trial before Lord Chief Justice Raymond, and Judge Denton: but some articles having been taken from Burnworth when he was apprehended, he refused to plead unless they were restored to him. The judges made use of every argument to prevail on him to plead; but in vain; in consequence of which sentence was passed that he should be pressed to death.

Hereupon he was taken back to the Stockhouse, where he bore the weight of one hundred,
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three quarters, and two pounds, on his breast. The High Sheriff, who attended him on this occasion, used every argument to prevail on him to plead; to which he consented, after bearing the weight an hour and three minutes, during great part of which time he endeavoured to kill himself by striking his head against the floor. Being brought into court, he was tried, and convicted with his companions.

They were no sooner convicted, than orders were given for their being chained to the floor; but in this deplorable situation they diverted themselves by recounting some particulars of their robberies to such persons whose curiosity induced them to visit the gaol. Some people wished they would leave an account of their robberies; but Burnworth said the particulars could not be contained in an hundred sheets of paper.

On passing sentence, the reverend judge most earnestly entreated them to prepare for another world, as their time in the present must necessarily be short. They begged that their friends might visit them; and this being complied with, files and saws were conveyed to them, to assist them in their escape.

Their plan was to have mixed opium in wine to have made the keepers sleep: and if this had taken place, they then proposed to have set fire to some piles of wood near the prison, and in other parts of the town, and to get a considerable distance during the conflagration: but the keepers having listened to their discourse, they were more strictly guarded than before, and their whole scheme rendered abortive.

A short time before their execution Burnworth told one of the keepers, that "If he did not see

“ him buried in a decent manner, he would meet
 “ him after death in a dark entry, and pull off
 “ his nose.”

When the day of execution arrived, the prisoners were put into a cart, and a company of foot soldiers escorted them to the fatal tree. On their way, Blewit saw a gentleman named Warwick, and having obtained permission to speak to him, most earnestly entreated his pardon for having attempted to shoot him, in consequence of an information which Mr. Warwick had given against him.

Blewit and Dickenson appeared more penitent than any of the rest. They wept bitterly at the place of execution, and said they hoped their untimely fate would teach young men to avoid such courses as had brought them to such a fatal end.

Their devotions being ended, they were turned off, and after execution their bodies were brought to the new Gaol in Southwark, to be fitted with chains. The bodies of Burnworth and Blewit were suspended on a gibbet in St. George's Fields, near where the murder was perpetrated. Legee and Higgs were hanged on Putney Common, and Berry and Dickenson on Kennington Common: but representation being made to the people in power, that Dickenson's father, when a lieutenant in the army, had died fighting for his country in Flanders, permission was given to his friends to take down and bury the body, after he had hung one day.

Marjoram, the evidence, obtained his liberty of course, when his accomplices were convicted: but in a few days afterwards, he cut the string of a butcher's apron, and ran away with his steel.

Being pursued, he was apprehended, committed, and being indicted for privately stealing, was con-

CATHERINE HAYES—*for Petit-Treason.* 99

convicted, and received sentence of death; but in consideration of his having been the means of bringing the above mentioned atrocious offenders to justice, the sentence of death was changed to that of transportation.

Burnworth and his associates were hanged at Kingston, on the 12th of April, 1726.

Every attentive reader will make his own reflections on the conduct of these atrocious malefactors. We may observe, in their case, how association in wickedness hardens the mind, and how one crime leads to another, till murder crowns the horrid catalogue of vices!

It would be almost an affront to our readers even to caution them against the commission of crimes so horrid: but one useful and short lesson cannot be too often impressed on the minds of youth:—**AVOID BAD COMPANY.** Nothing leads so readily or so certainly to destruction!

The Life, Trial, and Execution of CATHERINE HAYES, who was burnt for Petit-Treason;—also of THOMAS BILLINGS, who was executed for Murder;—and the Life, Trial, &c. of THOMAS WOOD, who was condemned for the same Murder, but died before the day of Execution.

THE case of these malefactors is of so extraordinary a nature, and made so much noise in the world, that we shall be the more explicit in our account of them. Indeed the affair is too remarkable to be ever forgotten.

Mrs. Hayes's maiden name was Hall, being the daughter of a poor man of that name who lived near Birmingham. She remained with her

parents till she was about fifteen years old; and then having a dispute with her mother, she left her home, and set out with a view of going to London.

Her person being rather engaging, some officers in the army meeting with her on the road, prevailed on her to accompany them to their quarters, at Great Ombersley, in Worcestershire, where she remained with them a considerable time. There is every reason to believe, that Billings was her son, and that his birth was the consequence of that unlawful connexion.

After the officers grew tired of her company she strolled about the country, till arriving at the house of Mr. Hayes, a farmer in Warwickshire, the farmer's wife hired her as a servant. When she had continued a short time in this service, Mr. Hayes's son fell violently in love with her, and a private marriage took place; which was managed in the following manner: Catherine left the house early in the morning, and the younger Hayes being a carpenter, prevailed on his mother to let him have some money to buy tools; but as soon as he had got it he set out, and meeting his sweetheart at a place they had agreed on, they went to Worcester, where the nuptial rites were celebrated.

At this time it happened that the officers by whom she had been seduced, were at Worcester; and learning that the marriage had taken place, they caused young Hayes to be taken out of bed from his wife, under pretence that he had enlisted in the army.

Thus situated, he was compelled to send an account of the transaction to his father, who thereby became acquainted with the marriage sooner than he would otherwise have been. The father, though

though offended with his son for the rash step he had taken, went to a magistrate, who attended him to Worcester, and demanded by what authority the young man was detained. The officers endeavoured to excuse their conduct: but the magistrate threatening to commit them to prison if they did not release him, the young fellow immediately obtained his liberty.

The elder Hayes, irritated at the imprudent conduct of his son, severely censured his proceeding; but considering that what was passed could not be recalled, had good sense enough not to persevere in his opposition to an unavoidable event.

Old Hayes now furnished his son with money to begin business for himself: and the young couple were in a thriving way, and appeared to live in harmony: but Mrs. Hayes, being naturally of a restless disposition, prevailed on her husband to enlist for a soldier. The regiment in which he served being ordered to the Isle of Wight, Catherine followed him thither: but he had not been long there before his father procured his discharge: but as it happened in the time of war, it was attended with an expence of 60l.

Young Hayes and his wife being returned home, the father gave them an estate of ten pounds per annum, to which he afterwards added another of sixteen pounds, which, with the profit of their trade, would have been amply sufficient for their support.

Hayes bore the character of an honest, well-disposed man. He treated his wife very indulgently, yet she constantly complained of the covetousness of his disposition: but he had much more reason to have complained of her; for she was

was turbulent, quarrelsome, and perpetually exciting disputes among her neighbours.

The elder Mr. Hayes, observing with concern how unfortunately his son was matched, advised him to leave her, and settle in some place where she might not find him : but such was his attachment to her, that he could not leave her ; and at length she persuaded him to come to London, after they had been married about six years.

On their arrival in the metropolis, Mr. Hayes took a house, part of which he let into lodgings, and opened a shop in the chandlery and coal trade, in which he was as successful as he could have wished. Exclusive of his profit by shop-keeping, he acquired a great deal of money by lending small sums on pledges*.

Mrs. Hayes's conduct in London was still more reprehensible than it had been in the country ; the chief pleasure of her life consisting in creating and encouraging quarrels among her neighbours ; and indeed, her unhappy disposition discovered itself on every occasion. Sometimes she would speak of her husband, to his acquaintance, in terms of great tenderness and respect ; and at other times she would represent him to her female associates as a compound of every thing that was contemptible in human nature. On a particular occasion she told a woman of her acquaintance, that she should think it no more sin to murder him than to kill a dog.

At length her husband finding that she made perpetual disturbances in the neighbourhood, thought it prudent to remove to Tottenham-

* At this period the business of pawnbroking was not regulated, as it has been of late years ; but every one followed the trade at pleasure.

Court-Road, where he carried on his former business; but not being as successful here as he could have wished, he took another house in Tyburn-Road, since called Oxford-Road.

In this situation he continued his practice of lending small sums of money on pledges, till having acquired a decent competency, he left off house-keeping, and hired lodgings near the same spot. Thomas Billings, a journeyman taylor, of whom we shall speak more hereafter, lodged in the same house. It is needless to tell the reader the connection that subsisted between Billings and Mrs. Hayes: but Mr. Hayes having gone into the country on business, his wife and her supposed son indulged themselves in every species of extravagance.

When Hayes returned, some of his neighbours told him how his wife had been wasting his substance; on which he severely censured her conduct, and a quarrel arising between them, they proceeded from words to blows. It was commonly thought that she formed the resolution of murdering him at this time, as the quarrel happened only six weeks before his fatal exit.

She now began to sound the disposition of Billings, to whom she said it was impossible for her to live longer with her husband: and she urged all possible arguments to prevail on him to aid her in the commission of the murder, among which one was, "that he was an atheist." Billings resisted her arguments for some time, but at length complied, unhappily both for himself and for her.

At this period Thomas Wood, an acquaintance of Mr. Hayes, arrived from the country, and being apprehensive of being impressed, Hayes kindly took him into his house, and promised to use

use his interest in procuring him some employment.

After a few days residence, Mrs. Hayes proposed to him the murder of her husband; but the man was shocked at the thought of murdering his friend and benefactor, and told her he would have no concern in so atrocious a deed.

In answer to this reply she urged the following arguments: that, "it would be no crime to kill such an atheistical person, who had no religion or goodness; that he was himself a murderer, having killed a man in the country, and likewise two of his own children, one of which he had buried under a pear-tree and the other under an apple-tree;" and she likewise said, that her husband's death would put her into possession of fifteen hundred pounds, of the whole of which Wood should have the disposal, if he would assist her and Billings in the perpetration of the murder.

Wood went out of town a few days after this, and on his return found Mr. and Mrs. Hayes and Billings in company together, having drank till they had put themselves into the utmost apparent good-humour.

Wood sitting down at Hayes's request, the latter said they had drank a guinea's worth of liquor, but notwithstanding this, he was not drunk. A proposal was now made by Billings, that if Hayes could drink six bottles of mountain without being drunk, he would pay for it; but that Hayes should be the paymaster if the liquor made him drunk, or if he failed of drinking the quantity.

This proposal being agreed to, Wood, Billings, and Mrs. Hayes went to a wine-vault to buy the wine, and, on their way, this wicked woman reminded the men that the present would be
a good

a good opportunity of committing the murder, as her husband would be perfectly intoxicated.

The mind of Wood was not yet wrought up to a proper pitch for the commission of a crime of so black a dye as the murder of a man who had sheltered and protected him; and this too at a time when his mind must necessarily be unprepared for the launching into eternity.

Mrs. Hayes had now recourse to her former arguments, urging that it would be no sin to kill him; and Billings seconding all she said, and declaring that he was ready to take a part in the horrid deed, Wood was at length prevailed on to become one of the execrable butchers.

Having thus agreed, they went to the wine-vault, where Mrs. Hayes paid half a guinea for six bottles of wine, which being sent home by a porter, Mr. Hayes began to drink it, while his intentional murderers regaled themselves with beer.

Having drank a considerable quantity of the wine, he danced about the room like a man distracted; and at length finished the whole quantity; but not being then in an absolute state of stupefaction, Mrs. Hayes sent for another bottle, which he likewise drank, and then fell senseless on the floor. Having lain some time in this condition, he got, with some difficulty, into another room, and threw himself on a bed.

When it was known that he was asleep, his wife told her associates that was the proper time to execute their plan, as there was no fear of any resistance on his part. No sooner had she said this, than Billings went into the room with a hatchet, with which he struck Hayes so violently that he fractured his skull.

At this time Hayes's feet hung off the bed, and the torture arising from the blow, made him stamp repeatedly on the floor, which being heard by Wood, he also went into the room, and taking the hatchet out of Billing's hand, gave the poor man two more blows, which effectually dispatched him.

A woman named Springate, who lodged in the room over that where the murder was committed, hearing the noise occasioned by Hayes's stamping, imagined that the parties might have quarrelled in consequence of their intoxication: and going down stairs, she told Mrs. Hayes that the noise had awakened her husband, child, and herself. Catherine had a ready answer hereto: She said some company had visited them, and were grown merry; but they were on the point of taking their leave; with which answer Mrs. Springate returned to her room well satisfied.

The murderers now consulted how they should dispose of the body, so as most effectually to prevent detection. Mrs. Hayes proposed to cut off the head, because if the body was found whole, it would be more likely to be known. The villains agreeing to this proposition, she fetched a pail, lighted a candle, and all of them going into the room, the men drew the body partly off the bed, when Billings supported the head, while Wood, with his pocket knife, cut it off, and the infamous woman held the pail to receive it, being as careful as possible that the floor might not be stained with the blood.

This being done, they poured the blood out of the pail into a sink by the window, and poured several pails of water after it; but notwithstanding all this care, Mrs. Springate observed some congealed blood the next morning: though at
that

that time she did not in the least suspect what had passed. It was likewise observed that the marks of the blood were visible on the floor for some weeks afterwards, though Mrs. Hayes had scraped it with a knife and washed it.

When the head was cut off, the infernal woman recommended the boiling it till the flesh should part from the bones: but the other parties thought this operation would take up too much time, and therefore advised the throwing it into the Thames, in expectation that it would be carried off by the tide, and sink.

This being agreed to, the head was put in the pail, and Billings took it under his great coat, being accompanied by Wood: but making a noise in going down stairs, Mrs. Springate called, and asked what was the matter; to which Mrs. Hayes answered that her husband was going a journey, and, with incredible dissimulation, affected to take her leave of him, and, as it was now past eleven, pretended great concern that he was under a necessity of going at so late an hour.

By this artifice Wood and Billings passed out of the house unnoticed, and went to Whitehall, where they intended to have thrown in the head; but the gates being shut, they went to a wharf near the Horse-ferry, Westminster. Billings putting down the pail, Wood threw the head into the Dock, expecting it would have been carried away by the stream; but in this they judged amiss, as the tide was now ebbing.

It happened at this time that a lighterman was in his vessel, and heard something fall into the Dock, but it was too dark for him to distinguish objects: and the murderers having thus disposed of the head, went home, and were let in by Mrs. Hayes, without the knowledge of the lodgers;

and she sat on the bed-side, while they lay down, till the morning.

The above transactions passed on the first of March, and on the following morning, soon after day-break, as a watchman named Robinson was going off his stand, he saw the pail, and looking into the Dock observed the head of a man. Having procured some witnesses to this spectacle, they took out the head, and observing the pail to be bloody, concluded that it was brought therein from some distant part.

The lighterman said that he had heard something thrown into the dock; and the magistrates and parish officers assembled, and gave strict orders that the most diligent search should be made after the body; but that was not found till some time afterwards, as will appear in the sequel.

When the murderers had conversed together some time on the disposal of the body, Mrs. Hayes proposed that it should be put into a box, and buried, and the other parties agreeing to this, she purchased a box, which, on being sent home, was found too little to contain it; on which she recommended the chopping off the legs and arms, which was done; but the box being still too small, the thighs were likewise cut off, and all the parts packed up together, and the box put by till night, when Wood and Billings took out the pieces of the mangled body, and putting them in two blankets, carried them out of the house unnoticed, and threw them into a pond near Marybone; which being done, they returned to their lodgings, and Mrs. Springate, who had still no suspicion of what had passed, opened the door to them.

In the interim the magistrates directed that the head should be washed clean, and the hair combed;

ed; after which it was put on a pole in the Church-yard of St. Margaret, Westminster, that an opportunity might be afforded for its being viewed by the public.

Orders were likewise given that the parish officers should attend this exhibition of the head, to take into custody any suspicious person who might discover signs of guilt on the sight of it. The high constable of Westminster, on a presumption that the body might, on the following night, be thrown where the head had been, gave private orders to the inferior constables, to attend during the night, and stop all coaches, or other carriages, or persons with burdens, coming near the spot, and examine if they could find the body, or any of the limbs.

The head being exposed on the pole, in the manner we have mentioned, so greatly excited the curiosity of the public, that immense crowds of people of all ranks went to view it; and among the rest was a Mr. Bennet, apprentice to the king's organ-builder, who having looked at it with great attention, said he thought it was the head of Hayes, with whom he had been some time acquainted: and hereupon he went to Mrs. Hayes, and telling her his suspicions, desired she would go and take a view of the head. In answer hereto she said that her husband was in good health, and desired him to be cautious of what he said, as such a declaration might occasion him a great deal of trouble; on which, for the present, Bennet took no farther notice of the affair.

A journeyman taylor, named Patrick, who worked in Monmouth-street, having likewise taken a view of the head, told his master, on his return, that he was confident it was the head of
Hayes;

Hayes; on which some other journeymen in the same shop, who had likewise known the deceased, went and saw it, and returned, perfectly of the same opinion.

Now it happened that Billings worked at this very shop; on which one of the men observed that he must know the head, as he lodged in Hayes's house; but Billings said he had left him well in bed when he came to work in the morning, and therefore it could not belong to him.

On the following day Mrs. Hayes gave Wood a suit of cloaths which had belonged to her husband, and sent him to Harrow on the Hill. As Wood was going down stairs with the bundle of cloaths, Mrs. Springate asked him what he had got: to which Mrs. Hayes readily replied, a suit of cloaths he had borrowed of an acquaintance.

On the second day after the commission of the murder, Mrs. Hayes being visited by a Mrs. Longmore, the former asked what was the news of the town; when the latter said that the public conversation was wholly engrossed by the head which was fixed in St. Margaret's Church-yard. Hereupon Catherine exclaimed against the wickedness of the times, and said she had been told that the body of a murdered woman had been found in the fields that day.

Wood coming from Harrow on the Hill on the following day, Catherine told him that the head was found, and giving him some other cloaths that had belonged to her husband, and five shillings, said she would continue to supply him with money.

After the head had been exhibited four days, and no discovery made, a surgeon, named Westbrook, was desired to put it in a glass of spirits to prevent its putrifying, and keep it for the farther inspection.

inspection of all who chose to take a view of it: and this was accordingly done.

Very soon after the perpetration of the horrid crime Mrs. Hayes quitted her lodgings, and removed to the house of Mr. Jones, a distiller, paying Mrs. Springate's rent also at the former lodgings, and taking her with her. Wood and Billings likewise removed with her, and she continued to supply them with money, and employed herself principally in collecting cash that had been owing to her late husband.

A sister of Mr. Hayes's, who lived in the country, having married a Mr. Davies, Hayes had lent Davies some money, for which he had taken his bond: which bond Catherine finding among Mr. Hayes's papers, she employed a person to write a letter in the name of the deceased, demanding ten pounds in part of payment, and threatening a prosecution in case of refusal.

Mr. Hayes's mother being still living, and Davies unable to pay the money, he applied to the old gentlewoman for assistance, who agreed to pay the money on condition that the bond was sent into the country; and wrote to London, intimating her consent so to do, having no suspicion of the horrid transaction which had taken place.

In the mean time incredible numbers of people resorted to see the head, and among the rest a poor woman from Kingsland, whose husband had been absent from the very time that the murder was perpetrated. After a minute survey of the head, she believed it was that of her husband, though she could not be absolutely positive. However, her suspicions were so strong, that strict search was made after the body, on a presumption

sumption that the cloaths might help her to ascertain it.

Mr. Hayes not being seen for a considerable time, his friends could not help making enquiry after him. A Mr. Ashby in particular, who had been on the most friendly terms with him, called on Mrs. Hayes, and demanded what was become of him. Catherine pretended to account for his absence by communicating the following intelligence to him, as a matter that must be kept profoundly secret; "Some time ago (said she) he happened to have a dispute with a man, and from words they came to blows; so that Mr. Hayes killed him. The wife of the deceased made up the affair, on Mr. Hayes's promising to pay her a certain annual allowance; but he not being able to make it good, she threatened to inform against him, on which he absconded."

This method of accounting for the absence of his friend was by no means satisfactory to Mr. Ashby, who asked her if the head that had been exposed on the pole was that of the man who had been killed by her husband. She readily answered in the negative, adding that the party had been buried entire; and that the widow had her husband's bond for the payment of fifteen pounds a year. Ashby enquiring to what part of the world Mr. Hayes was gone, she said to Portugal, in company with some gentlemen; but she had yet received no letter from him.

The whole of this story seemed highly improbable to Mr. Ashby, who went to a Mr. Longmore, a gentleman nearly related to Hayes, and it was agreed between them that Mr. Longmore should call on Catherine, and have some conversation: but not let her know that Ashby had been
with

with him; for they supposed that by comparing the two accounts together, they might form a very probable judgment of the matter of fact.

Accordingly, Longmore went to Catherine, and enquired after her husband. In answer to his questions, she said she presumed Mr. Ashby had related the circumstance of his misfortune; but Longmore replied that he had not seen Ashby for a considerable time, and expressed his hope that her husband was not imprisoned for debt. "No, (she replied) it is much worse than that." "Why, (said Longmore) has he murdered any one?" To this she answered in the affirmative; and desiring him to walk into another room, told him almost the same story as she had done to Mr. Ashby, but instead of saying he was gone to Portugal, said he had retired to Hertfordshire, and, in fear of being attacked, had taken four pistols to defend himself.

It was now remarked by Mr. Longmore that it was imprudent for him to travel thus armed, as he was liable to be taken up, on suspicion of being a highwayman; and if such a circumstance should happen, he would find it no easy matter to procure a discharge.

She allowed the justice of this remark, but said that Mr. Hayes commonly travelled in that manner. She likewise said that he was once taken into custody, on suspicion of being a highwayman, and conducted to a magistrate; but a gentleman who was casually present happening to know him, gave bail for his appearance. To this Longmore observed that the justice of peace must have exceeded his authority; for that the law required that two parties should bail a per-

son charged on suspicion of having robbed on the highway.

In the course of conversation, Mr. Longmore asked her what sum of money her husband had in his possession. To which she replied that he had seventeen shillings in his pocket, and about twenty-six guineas sewed within the lining of his coat. She added that Mrs. Springate knew the truth of all these circumstances, which had induced her to pay that woman's rent at the former lodgings, and bring her away.

Mrs. Springate being interrogated by Longmore, averred the truth of all that Catherine had said, and added that Mr. Hayes was a very cruel husband, having behaved with remarkable severity to his wife; but Mr. Longmore said this must be false, for to his knowledge, he was remarkably tender and indulgent of her.

Longmore went immediately to Mr. Ashby, and said that from the difference of the stories Catherine had told them, he had little doubt but that poor Hayes had been murdered: and when they came to compare all the circumstances of the two tales, neither of them entertained much doubt of the fact.

Hereupon they determined to go to Mr. Eaton, who was one of the life-guards, and nearly related to the deceased, and to communicate their suspicions, and the grounds thereof, to him; but Eaton happening to be absent from home, they agreed to go again to Westminster, and survey the head with more care and attention than they had hitherto done.

On their arrival, the surgeon told them that a poor woman from Kingsland had, in part, owned the head as that of her husband; but she was not

so absolutely certain as to swear that it was so ; and that they were very welcome to take another view of it. This they did, and agreed in opinion that it was actually the head of Hayes.

On their return, therefore, they called at Eaton's house, and took him with them to dine at Mr. Longmore's, where the subject of conversation ran naturally on the supposed discovery they had made. A brother of Mr. Longmore, coming in at this juncture, listened to their conversation, and remarked that they proposed that Mr. Eaton should go to Mrs. Hayes, at the expiration of two or three days, and make enquiries after her husband, similar to those which had been made by the other gentlemen.

To this Longmore's brother urged his objections; observing that as they had reason to think their suspicions so well founded, it would be very ill policy to lose any time, since the murderers would certainly effect an escape if they should hear they were suspected; and as Wood and Billings were drinking with Mr. Hayes the last time he was seen, he advised that they should be immediately taken into custody.

This advice appeared so reasonable, that all the parties agreed to follow it; and going soon afterwards to justice Lambert, they told him their suspicions, and the reasons on which they were founded.

Hereupon the magistrate granted his warrant for the apprehension of Catherine Hayes, Thomas Wood, Thomas Billings, and Mary Sprin-gate, on suspicion of their having been guilty of the murder of John Hayes: and Mr. Lambert, anxious that there should be no failure in the execution of the warrant, determined to attend in person.

Hereupon, having procured the assistance of two officers of the life guards, and taking with him the several gentlemen who had given the information, they went to Mr. Jones's, the distiller, (Mrs. Hayes's lodgings) about nine o'clock at night.

As they were going up stairs without any ceremony, the distiller desired to know by what authority they made so free in his house; but Mr. Lambert informing him who he was, no farther opposition was made to their proceedings.

The magistrate going to the door of Mrs. Hayes's room, rapped with his cane, on which she said, "Who is there?" and he commanded her to open the door immediately, or it should be broke open. To this she replied, that she would open it as soon as she had put on her cloaths; and she did so in little more than a minute; when the justice ordered the parties present to take her into custody.

At this time Billings was sitting on the side of the bed, bare-legged; on which Mr. Lambert asked if they had been sleeping together: to which Catherine replied "No," and said that Billings had been only mending his stockings. On this the justice observed that his fight must be extremely good, as there was neither fire nor candle in the room when they came to the door.

Some of the parties remaining below, to secure the prisoners, Mr. Longmore went up stairs with the justice, and took Mrs. Springate into custody; and then they were all conducted together to the house of Mr. Lambert.

This magistrate having examined the prisoners separately for a considerable time, and all of them positively persisting in their ignorance of anything respecting the murder, they were separately

rately committed for re-examination on the following day, before Mr. Lambert and other magistrates. Mrs. Springate was sent to the Gatehouse, Billings to New-Prison, and Mrs. Hayes to Tothill-Fields Bridewell.

When the peace-officers, attended by Longmore, went the next day to fetch up Catherine to her examination; she earnestly desired to see the head: and it being thought prudent to grant her request, she was carried to the surgeon's, and no sooner was the head shewn to her, than she exclaimed, "Oh! it is my dear husband's head!" "It is my dear husband's head!" She now took the glass in her arms, and shed many tears while she embraced it.

Mr. Westbrook told her that he would take the head out of the glass, that she might have a more perfect view of it, and be certain that it was the same. The surgeon doing as he had said, she seemed to be greatly affected, and having kissed the head several times, she begged to be indulged with a lock of the hair: and on Mr. Westbrook expressing his apprehension that she had had too much of his blood already, she fell into a fit; and on her recovery she was conducted to Mr. Lambert's, to take her examination with the other parties.

It happened that on the morning of this day, as a gentleman and his servant were crossing the fields near Marybone, they observed something lying in a ditch, and taking a nearer view of it, they found that it consisted of some of the parts of a human body.

Shocked at the sight, the gentleman dispatched his servant to get assistance to investigate the affair farther; and some labouring men being procured, they dragged the pond, and found the other parts
of

of the body wrapped in a blanket ; but no head was to be found. A constable brought intelligence of this fact while Mrs. Hayes was under examination before the justices ; a circumstance that contributed to strengthen the idea conceived of her guilt.

Notwithstanding this, she still persisted in her innocence : but the magistrates, paying no regard to her declarations, committed her to Newgate, whither she was followed by immense numbers of people, whose execrations testified the sense they entertained of her crime.

Wood being at this time out of town, it was thought prudent to defer the farther examination of Billings and Springate till he should be taken into custody.

On the morning of the next Sunday he came on horseback to the house where Mrs. Hayes had lodged when the murder was committed ; when he was told that she had removed to Mr. Jones's. Accordingly he rode thither, and enquired for her ; but the people knowing that he was one of the parties charged with the murder, were disposed to take him into custody ; but their fear of his having pistols prevented their doing so.

Unwilling, however, that such an atrocious offender should escape, they told him that Mrs. Hayes was gone to the Green Dragon in King-street on a visit, (which house was kept by Mr. Longmore,) and they sent a person with him, to direct him to the place. The brother of Longmore being at the door on his arrival, and knowing him well, pulled him from his horse, and accused him of being an accomplice in the murder.

Being immediately delivered to the custody of some constables, they conducted him to the house
of

of justice Lambert, before whom he underwent an examination; but refusing to make any confession, he was sent to Tothill-fields Bridewell, for farther examination.

On his arrival at the prison, he was informed that the body had been found: and not doubting but that the whole affair would come to light, he begged that he might be carried back to the justice's house. This being made known to Mr. Lambert, he sent for the assistance of two other magistrates, and the prisoner being brought up, he confessed the several particulars we have already recited, and signed his confession.

It is thought that he entertained some hope of being admitted an evidence; but as his surrender was not voluntary, and as his accomplices were in custody, the magistrates told him he must abide the verdict of a jury. This wretched man acknowledged that since the perpetration of the crime, he had been terrified at the sight of every one he met, that he had not experienced a moment's peace, and that his mind had been distracted with the most violent agitations.

His commitment was made out for Newgate; but so exceedingly were the passions of the populace agitated on the occasion, that it was feared he would be torn to pieces by the mob; wherefore it was thought prudent to procure a guard of a serjeant and eight soldiers, who conducted him to prison with their bayonets fixed.*

A gen-

* To the credit of the humanity of modern times, the calling in the assistance of the military on these occasions is no longer necessary. However we abhor the crimes, we insult not the criminal; and a few peace-officers are found sufficient to conduct the offender to prison.

A gentleman named Mercer, having visited Mrs. Hayes in Newgate, the day before Wood was taken into custody, she desired he would go to Billings, and urge him to confess the whole truth, as the proofs of their guilt were such, that no advantage could be expected from a farther denial of the fact. Accordingly the gentleman went to Billings, who being carried before justice Lambert, he made a confession, agreeing in all its circumstances with that of Wood; and thereupon Mrs. Springate was set at liberty, as her innocence was evident from their concurrent testimony.

Numbers of people now went to see Mrs. Hayes in Newgate: and on her being asked what could induce her to commit so atrocious a crime, she gave very different answers at different times; but frequently alledged that Mr. Hayes had been an unkind husband to her, a circumstance which was contradicted by the report of every person who knew the deceased.

But there is one inexplicable mystery in the history of this woman. She called Billings her son, and sometimes averred that he was really so, but he knew nothing of her being his mother, nor did her relations know any thing of the birth of such a child. To some people she would affirm that he was the son of Mr. Hayes, born after marriage; but that his father having an aversion to him while an infant, he was put to nurse in the country, and all farther care of him totally neglected on their coming to London. But this story is altogether incredible, because Hayes was not a man likely to have deserted his child to the frowns of fortune; and his parents had never heard of the birth of such a son.

Billings

Billings was equally incapable of giving a satisfactory account of his own origin. All he knew was that he had lived with a country shoemaker, who passed for his father, and had sent him to school, and then put him apprentice to a taylor. If one might hazard a conjecture on this occasion, one would suppose, that Billings was the natural son of Mrs. Hayes, born in consequence of her illicit connection with the military officers, as mentioned in the beginning of this narrative.

Be this as it may, it is probable that she discovered him to be her son, when she afterwards became acquainted with him in London: and it is not impossible that his real father might maintain him while he passed as the son of a shoemaker named Billings; or that his 'mother' might have made remittances for his support: but few people will doubt of his being the real son of Mrs. Hayes, who reflect how readily he agreed to her first proposal of murdering her husband.

Indeed some persons, who came from the same part of the kingdom, said that Billings was found in a basket near a farm-house, and supported at the expence of the parish. If this story be true, it may be presumed that he was dropped in that manner by his unnatural mother.

It now remains to say something of Thomas Wood, who was born near Ludlow in Shropshire, and brought up to the business of husbandry. He was so remarkable for his harmless and sober conduct when a boy, as to be very much esteemed by his neighbours. On the death of his father, his mother took a public-house for the support of her children, of whom this Thomas was the eldest; and he behaved so dutifully to his mother that the loss of her husband was scarcely felt.

The behaviour of Mrs. Hayes was not such as might have been hoped for from so atrocious an offender. She had an intention of destroying herself; for which purpose she procured a phial of strong poison, which being casually tasted by a woman who was confined with her, it burnt her lips; on which she broke the phial, and thereby frustrated the intended design.

On the day of her death she received the sacrament, and was drawn on a sledge to the place of execution. Billings was executed in the usual manner, and then hung in chains, not far from the pond in which Mr. Hayes's body was found, in Marybone-Fields.

When the wretched woman had finished her devotions, an iron chain was put round her body, with which she was fixed to a stake near the gallows. On these occasions, when women are burnt for petit-treason, it is customary to strangle them, by means of a rope passed round the neck, and pulled by the executioner; so that they are dead before the flames reach the body. But this woman was literally burnt alive; for the executioner letting go the rope sooner than usual, the fire burnt fiercely round her, and the spectators beheld her pushing the faggots from her, while she rent the air with her cries and lamentations.

Though other faggots were thrown on her, she survived amidst the flames for a considerable time, and her body was not perfectly reduced to ashes, in less than three hours.

This singular mode of her death became as much the subject of public conversation as her life had been; and many letters were published in the news-papers on the occasion. One party insisted that she had been thus executed in consequence of private orders from the people in power,

er, founded on the shocking circumstances of aggravation which attended her crime; while other people contended that the sheriff had given orders that the law should be thus rigorously executed. But a third party insisted that neither of these were the fact; but that the flames reaching the hands of the executioner, he was compelled to let go the rope for his own safety; and indeed this seems the more probable opinion; for, enormous as her crime was, it is not customary in England to exert, but rather to abate, the full rigour of the law.

The above-mentioned malefactors suffered at Tyburn, on the 9th of May, 1726.

One would hardly have imagined that so serious, so melancholy a business as the murder of which we have recited the particulars, should have afforded matter of mirth or wit; yet an anonymous punster of those times published the following ballad, which he called

A SONG on the Murder of Mr. HAYES.

(*To the Tune of Chevy Chase.*)

1.

IN Tyburn-Road a man there liv'd
 A just and honest life,
 And there he might have lived still,
 If so had pleased his wife.

2.

But she to vicious ways inclin'd,
 A life most wicked led,
 With taylors and with tinkers too
 She oft defil'd his bed.

3.

The behaviour of Mrs. Hayes was not such as might have been hoped for from so atrocious an offender. She had an intention of destroying herself; for which purpose she procured a phial of strong poison, which being casually tasted by a woman who was confined with her, it burnt her lips; on which she broke the phial, and thereby frustrated the intended design.

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But she to vicious ways inclin'd,
 A life most wicked led,
 With taylor and with tinkers too
 She oft defil'd his bed.

3.

3.

Full twice a-day to church he went,
 And so devout would be,
 Sure never was a faint on earth,
 If that no faint was he!

4.

This vext his wife unto the heart,
 She was of wrath so full,
 That finding no hole in his coat,
 She pick'd one in his scull.

5.

But then her heart 'gan to relent,
 And griev'd she was so sore,
 That quarter to him for to give,
 She cut him into four.

6.

All in the dark and dead of night,
 These quarters she convey'd,
 And in a ditch near Marybone,
 His marrow-bones she laid.

7.

His head at Westminster she threw,
 All in the Thames so wide;
 Says she, my dear, the wind sets fair,
 And you may have the tide.

8.

But Heav'n, whose pow'r no limits know
 On earth, or on the main,
 Soon caus'd this head for to be thrown
 Upon the land again.

9.

This head being found, the justices
Their heads together laid ;
And all agreed there must have been
Some body to this head.

10.

But since no body could be found,
High mounted on a shelf,
They e'en set up the head to be
A witness for itself.

11.

Next, that it no self-murder was,
The case itself explains,
For no man could cut off his head,
And throw it in the Thames.

12.

Ere many days had gone and past,
The deed at length was known,
And Cath'rine she confes'd at last,
The fact to be her own.

13.

God prosper long our noble king,
Our lives and safeties all,
And grant that we may warning take
By Cath'rine Hayes's fall.

More than one lesson of morality, and even of religion, may be gathered from a due consideration of this melancholy story. Young Hayes's marrying without the consent of his parents seems to have laid the first foundation of his ruin. Hence let young people learn to feel the force of the
fifth

fifth commandment: for if this youth had so far "honoured his father and his mother," as even to have consulted them on so important a change of life, it is probable they would have advised him against marrying their servant-maid, by which he would have escaped the unnatural death that afterwards befel him.

Mrs. Hayes appears to have been a woman of the most violent passions, as is evident by her fomenting quarrels among her neighbours wherever she lived: yet these passions ended only in the most dreadful and ignominious death. From this part of her history we should learn the necessity of keeping a constant guard on our passions, which are useful when kept under restraint, but highly prejudicial when indulged to an excess.

It is probable that Mr. Hayes would not have been murdered in the manner he was, had he not drank to such an excess; for one or more of his intended murderers might have repented of the proposed scheme; or if they had held their resolution of carrying it into execution, he would, if sober, have been able to have made some resistance, and the people of the house might have saved him from the intended violence. Hence the virtue of sobriety is inculcated in a very forcible manner.

The pains taken by the murderers to conceal their crime, by throwing the head into the Thames, in expectation that it would be carried away by the tide; their hiding the body in a distant part; the diligence used by the magistrates, and other peace officers, for the apprehension of the offenders; and the variety of other circumstances that led to their apprehension and conviction, are but so many strong proofs how difficult it is to conceal the crime of murder.

Wood's excellent character in the former part of life; with the difficulty with which he was tempted to take a part in this horrid crime, should teach us how important it is to maintain a good character once acquired, and inspire us with resolution never to forget the force of that prayer, "Lead us not into temptation."

The whole of this shocking narrative will shew that a deviation from the path of duty in a wife, and the want of gratitude in those who are under obligations to others, may lead to the most fatal consequences.

Particular Account of ANTHONY DRURY, who was hanged at *Tyburn*, for committing a Robbery on the Highway.

THIS offender was a native of Norfolk, and the son of parents in reputable circumstances, who imprudently neglected to bring him up to any business, so that when he arrived at years of maturity he wandered about the country curing smoaky chimneys, which procured him the appellation of the smoaky doctor, among those who knew his profession.

At length he married a woman who was said to possess a very considerable fortune: but whatever this fortune was, Drury never received more of it than 500*l*. He now lived some years with his wife, at Andover; but occasionally ranged the country in search of that business in which he seemed to place his chief delight. His wife used every argument to prevail with him to remain at home; but her solicitations were without effect.

Sometimes he would strole to London, and bring with him valuable articles for his support: and on one of these occasions he pawned some plate for twenty pounds, and dissipated the money in company with women of abandoned character.

By degrees, he stripped his wife of great part of what should have supported her, so that she was obliged to the friendship of her relations for a maintenance. By a continued course of extravagance he grew daily more and more vicious, and at length determined to commence highwayman.

In London he made an acquaintance with Robert King, the driver of the Bicelter waggon. This King was a fellow of most execrable character, whose practice was to inform the highwaymen when he had any persons to travel in his waggon*, who possessed any considerable sum of money or valuable effects, that they might be robbed on the road; on which occasions a share was always given to the driver.

Drury being in company with this King, the latter told him that a gentleman named Eldridge would travel in the waggon on the following day, and that it would be prudent to rob him before he got far from town, as he would have with him a very considerable booty.

Our adventurer listened eagerly to this tale, and the next day robbed Mr. Eldridge of two hundred and fourteen guineas. As he took money only, he had very little apprehension of detection: but another traveller in the waggon happening

* Formerly people of great property used to travel in waggons; but the frugal manners of our ancestors are abolished; and post-chaises and flying machines take place of the other carriages.

pening to know him, repaired to London and gave information against him; whereupon he was taken into custody, and being brought to his trial, was convicted on full evidence.

After he received sentence of death his behaviour was consistent with his unhappy situation. He was a regular attendant on divine worship, and a constant peruser of books of religion: but at the same time he did every thing in his power to procure a respite of the fatal sentence.

Some people of consequence exerted themselves to obtain the royal mercy for Drury, but in vain: his character and crime militated too forcibly against him.

After conviction he repeatedly wrote to his wife, desiring her to come to London, and among other motives to prevail on her, told her that she might redeem the plate which he had pawned: but all he could say had no effect; she lent a deaf ear to all his entreaties.

He appeared to be greatly disturbed in mind at this unfeeling indifference of his wife, which prevented that calmness of disposition which was requisite for his proper preparation for his approaching exit.

Two days before his death he received the sacrament with every mark of real contrition. On the evening preceding his execution, a gentleman sent a woman to enquire what declaration he would make respecting the waggoner; to whom he answered, that he had no idea of committing the crime till King proposed it to him; and that his life was sacrificed in consequence of his taking that advice.

When at the place of execution he appeared to possess more courage than he had done some time before, and again declared that the waggoner had

seduced him to commit the robbery. He earnestly exhorted young people to avoid bad company, as what would most infallibly bring them to destruction.

This malefactor suffered at Tyburn, on the third of November, 1726; at the age of 28 years.

The matters chiefly to be observed in this case are the readiness with which Drury took the hint of the waggoner to rob Mr. Eldridge, and the baseness of King in giving that hint. Drury seems to have thought to have escaped detection by robbing the gentleman of money only: but vice is generally off its guard, and is often detected by means that human prudence could neither foresee nor prevent.

The infamy of King was greater, if possible, than that of the highwayman. The man who violates the trust with which he is charged is one of the basest of villains. He must be universally detested; and indeed he deserves universal detestation. We are not informed what was the future fate of this King; but there can be no doubt but that he lived miserable, and died unlamented.

Of all the doctrines to be impressed on the minds of servants, that of fidelity to their masters is one of the most important. It is interwoven with their duty to God, and makes a part of that very duty. The man who is unfaithful to the trust reposed in him by his earthly master, renders himself unworthy of the favour and protection of his Father who is in Heaven.



An Account of the remarkable Trials of RICHARD SAVAGE, JAMES GREGORY, and WILLIAM MERCHANT: with some curious Anecdotes of the Life of Mr. *Savage*.

IN the month of December 1727, Richard Savage, James Gregory, and William Merchant were indicted at the Old Bailey for the Murder of James Sinclair. Savage by giving him a mortal wound with a drawn sword in the lower part of the belly; and Gregory and Merchant by aiding Savage in the commission of the said murder.

Mr. Nuttal deposed that the prisoners came to Robinson's Coffee-House, near Charing cross, between one and two o'clock in the morning of the 21st of November, when Merchant entering first, kicked down the table, and Savage and Gregory drawing their swords, Mr. Nuttal desired them to put them up, but they refused to do so.

A scuffle now ensued, in which Mr. Sinclair received a mortal wound, and was heard to say, "I am a dead man;" soon after which the candles were extinguished.

Another witness deposed that as he and some other company were on the point of leaving the house, the prisoners came in, when Merchant kicked down the table, and Gregory going up to the deceased said, "D— ye, you rascal, deliver your sword;" on which swords were drawn, and the deceased wounded as above-mentioned: that the deceased had his sword drawn when the wound was given by Savage; but that he held it with the point down towards the ground: but neither this deponent nor the former observed that Merchant had any sword.

There

There were several other witnesses to prove the fact: but it may be now proper to mention how it happened that the parties accused came to the house where it occurred. Mr. Savage had a lodging at Richmond, and another at London: and having come to town to pay off the latter, and casually meeting with Gregory and Merchant, two gentlemen with whom he had been acquainted for some time past, they went to a coffee-house, where they drank till late in the evening. Savage would have engaged a bed at the coffee-house, but there not being accommodations for him, he and his friends went into the street, proposing to spend the night as they could, and in the morning to walk to Richmond.

Strolling about, they saw a light in Robinson's Coffee-house, into which they entered, and the fatal consequence ensued that we have already recited.

The perpetrators of this rash action having left the house, some soldiers were sent for, by whom they were taken into custody, and lodged in the round-house; and in the morning were carried before a magistrate, who committed them to the Gatehouse; but Mr. Sinclair dying on the following day, they were sent to Newgate.

The deceased was attended by a clergyman, who declared that he said he was stabbed before he had time to draw his sword; and this testimony was confirmed by that of other witnesses.

When the evidence was summed up, the court observed to the jury, that, "As the deceased and
" his companions were in possession of the room,
" if the prisoners were the aggressors by coming
" into that room, kicking down the table, and
" immediately thereupon drawing their swords
" with-

“ without provocation, &c. it was murder, not
 “ only in him who gave the wound, but in those
 “ who aided and abetted him.”

Several persons of distinction appeared in behalf of the prisoners, and gave them the character of good-natured, quiet, and peaceable men: but in answer hereto it was observed by the court, that, “ As to the characters of the prisoners; good
 “ character is of weight where proof is doubtful,
 “ but flies up when put in the scale against plain
 “ and positive evidence: and as to the sudden-
 “ ness of the action—where there is a sudden
 “ quarrel, and a provocation is given by him
 “ who is killed, and where suddenly and mutu-
 “ ally persons attack each other and fight, and
 “ one of them is killed in the heat of blood, it
 “ is manslaughter. But were one is the aggress-
 “ for, pursues the insult, and kills the person at-
 “ tacked, without any provocation, though on a
 “ sudden, the law implies malice, and it is mur-
 “ der.”

After a trial of eight hours the jury found Savage and Gregory guilty of murder, and Merchant guilty of manslaughter, in consequence of which the latter was burnt in the hand and discharged.

On the 11th of December 1727, Richard Savage and James Gregory were brought to the bar with other capital convicts, to receive sentence of death; and being asked, in the customary manner, what they had to say why judgment should not be passed on them, Mr. Savage spoke as follows:

“ It is now, my lord, too late to offer any thing
 “ by way of defence, or vindication: nor can we
 “ expect ought from your lordships, in this court,
 “ but the sentence which the law requires you as
 “ judge

“ judge to pronounce against men of our calamitous condition.—But we are also persuaded, that as mere men, and out of this feat of rigorous justice, you are susceptible of the tender passions, and too humane, not to commiserate the unhappy situation of those whom the law sometimes perhaps—exacts—from you to pronounce sentence upon.

“ No doubt you distinguish between offences, which arise out of premeditation, and a disposition habitual to vice or immorality, and transgressions, which are the unhappy and unforeseen effects of a casual absence of reason, and sudden impulse of passion: we, therefore, hope you will contribute all you can to an extension of that mercy, which the gentlemen of the jury have been pleased to shew Mr. Merchant, who (allowing facts as sworn against us by the evidence) has led us into this calamity.

“ I hope this will not be construed as if we meant to reflect upon that gentleman, or remove any thing from us upon him, or, that we repine the more at our fate, because he has no participation of it: no, my lord! for my part, I declare nothing could more soften my grief, than to be without any companion in so great a misfortune.”

The king having been graciously pleased to grant a pardon to Messrs. Savage and Gregory, they were admitted to bail on the 20th of January 1728, in order to their pleading that pardon; and accordingly, on the 5th of March following, they pleaded to the said pardon, and were set at liberty.

Mr. Savage was at the same time one of the most ingenious and most unfortunate of the human race. He was a natural son of the countess of

of Macclesfield, by captain Savage, who was afterwards earl of Rivers. While his mother was pregnant with him she told lord Macclesfield that the child of which she should be delivered was not his, but that captain Savage was the father of it.

Incensed at this declaration, lord Macclesfield preferred a bill in the house of peers, and obtained a divorce, in consequence of an act passed for that purpose: but the lady's fortune, which was very considerable, was reserved to her own use. Soon after the divorce, the countess married captain Savage; and the unfortunate subject of this narrative was born on the 10th of January, 1697.

This extraordinary affair greatly excited the attention of the polite world: but the mother of Mr. Savage behaved in such a manner as will for ever entail infamy on her memory. She conceived a hatred for her child from the moment of his birth; and resolving that the witness of her shame should not remain in her presence, she put him out to nurse with a poor woman in the country, with positive directions that he should be brought up as her own son, and not be acquainted who were his real parents.

This trust was faithfully discharged by the nurse; and when young Savage was eight years of age he was placed at the Grammar-school of St. Alban's; and though earl River's made repeated enquiries after him, he could not learn what was become of him: but he had taken care to have his right name registered in the parish books of St. Andrew, Holborn.

When the earl was on his death-bed he was more anxious than ever to know what was become of his son, that he might bequeath him part of a good estate which he left among his natural chil-

dren: but the unfeeling mother then assured him that the boy was dead.

When Savage had attained the age of fifteen years, his nurse died, and on examining her papers he came to understand the mystery of his birth, and the contrivances that had been carried on to conceal his real origin.

About this time he was advised, by his mother's private directions, to put himself apprentice to a shoemaker; but this he absolutely refused to do, though he was then almost in want of the common necessaries of life.

Reduced to this uncomfortable situation, it was very natural for him to apply to his mother: but though he made repeated efforts to be admitted to her presence, she refused to see him; nor would she answer any of the letters which he wrote to her.

It now became absolutely necessary that he should do something for his support; on which he turned his thoughts to poetry, and wrote several pieces which were published in the newspapers.

At the age of eighteen he wrote a comedy, which he offered to the managers of the playhouse in Lincoln's-Inn Fields: but this not being thought sufficiently perfect for representation, Savage reaped no benefit from it; though it was soon afterwards altered by Mr. Bullock the comedian, who brought it on the stage in the year 1716, under the title of "Woman's a Riddle;" when it was acted with some share of applause.

About two years after this, Savage wrote a Comedy called "Love in a Veil," which was performed at the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane: but as it was brought out late in the season, the profits arising from the representation were but a
poor

poor compensation for the trouble of writing it, and bringing it on the stage. Both the plays above-mentioned were founded on Spanish plots.

Though Savage was in some measure disappointed in his expectation of profit from the last play, yet it procured him connections that were of some service to him. A gentleman of considerable rank, and of eminence in the literary world, proposed that Savage should marry his natural daughter, and intended to have given him a handsome fortune with her; but the malice of his enemies defeated this scheme, by propagating a report that Savage had traduced the gentleman and his wife; so that the intended father-in-law would scarcely admit our unfortunate author to his presence. His mother was supposed to be the contriver of this plot.

But Savage met with two good patrons in Aaron Hill, Esq. and Mr. Wilks, the celebrated comedian. These gentlemen procured him a pension of fifty pounds a year, which was presumed to have come from his mother; and her reason for allowing him this pension is accounted for in the following manner.

Mr. Savage being in circumstances of distress, his friends advised him to publish his poems by subscription; and preparations being made for this purpose, he had treated his mother with great freedom in the preface to the intended volume. This circumstance being made known to the countess, the sentence was made on him, and the preface was suppressed: but the book was published, in the dedication to which, to Lady Mary Wortley Montague, is the following remarkable sentence: “ Nature seems to have
 “ formed my mind as inconsistently as fortune
 “ has my conditions. She has given me a heart
 S 2 “ that

“ that is as proud as my father’s, to a rank of
 “ life almost as low as the humanity of my
 “ mother !”

When Mr. Savage was in circumstances of great distress he wrote the following lines addressed to his mother ; and which have been admired as an instance of the pathetic.

Hopeless, abandon’d, aimless and oppress’d,
 Lost to delight, and every way distress’d,
 Cross his cold bed, in wild disorder thrown,
 Thus sigh’d Alexis, friendless and alone—
 Why do I breathe ? what joy can Being give,
 When she who gave me life, forgets I live ?
 Feels not these wintry blasts—nor heeds my smart,
 But shuts me from the shelter of her heart !
 Saw me expos’d to want ! to shame ! to scorn !
 To ills !——which make it misery to be born !
 Cast me, regardless, on the world’s bleak wild :
 And bade me be a wretch, while yet a child !
 Where can he hope for pity, peace or rest,
 Who moves no softness in a mother’s breast ?
 Custom, law, reason, All my cause forsake,
 And nature sleeps, to keep my woes awake.
 Crimes, which the cruel scarce believe can be,
 The kind are guilty of, to ruin me !
 Even she who bore me, blasts me with her hate,
 And meant my fortune, makes herself my fate !
 Yet has this sweet neglecter of my woes,
 The softest, tenderest breast that pity knows !
 Her eyes shed mercy, wherefoe’er they shine ;
 And her soul melts at every woe——but mine.
 Sure then, some secret fate, for guilt unwill’d,
 Some sentence, pre-ordain’d to be fulfill’d,
 Plung’d me thus deep in sorrows searching flood,
 And wash’d me from the memory of her blood.

But

But O! whatever cause has mov'd her hate,
 Let me but sigh in silence at my fate:
 The God within, perhaps, may touch her breast;
 And when she pities, who can be distress'd?

In the year 1724 Mr. Savage wrote his tragedy called "Sir Thomas Overbury,"* which was acted at Drury-Lane Theatre, himself performing the principal character with considerable applause. In a dedication to this play the author acknowledges his obligations to Aaron Hill, Esq. who wrote the prologue and epilogue to it.

Mr. Savage resided in the latter part of his life at Bristol, where he died in very reduced circumstances.

The crime of which the above-mentioned gentlemen were convicted was of a very atrocious nature; yet Mr. Savage was always celebrated for the meekness and humanity of his nature. This shews, in a striking manner, the bad consequence that may arise from keeping irregular hours, and going to houses of ill fame; for Robinson's Coffee-House bore that character. Though the gentlemen, when they went into the house, might have no ill intentions, we see what fatal consequences arose; probably, in a great measure, the effect of intoxication. Hence, then, we may learn the great importance of a life of sobriety: and that when reason is once drowned in liquor, the man degenerates into something lower than a brute.

The unnatural conduct of Mr. Savage's mother is no way to be accounted for. She did not
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* This tragedy was revived with alterations, and acted with applause, in the winter of the year 1777.

seek to hide her shame, first by concealing her son, and afterwards by keeping him a beggar; for she had avowed the crime she had been guilty of, and a divorce from her husband had followed. She seems to have possessed a most unfeeling heart, and there is a mystery in her conduct which it is not in the power of language to explain.

One important lesson, however, may be learnt from her behaviour.—The fair sex will see the inestimable value of the virtue of CHASTITY. If the Countess of Macclesfield had not been unfaithful to the bed of her husband, she would not have been the mother of a son, whom she left exposed to all the miseries that were the consequence of a proud heart joined to an humble fortune; nor would she have entailed perpetual infamy on her own memory!

A Compleat Narrative of the Proceedings of EDWARD BELLAMY, who was hanged for a Burglary.

THIS malefactor was chiefly distinguished by the number of his robberies, and the dexterity with which he executed them. He was a native of London, and served his time to a taylor: but his apprenticeship was no sooner expired than he associated with some women of ill fame, and became a thief in order to support their extravagance.

His commencement in the art of theft was with a number of young pickpockets, and he soon became an adept in the profession. From this business they advanced a step further. They used to

go, three or four in company, to the shops of silversmiths in the evening, and while one of them cheapened some article of small value, his companions used to secrete something of greater.

It was likewise a practice with them to walk the streets at night, and forcing up the windows of shops with a chissel, run off with any property that lay within their reach. This was commonly done so suddenly, that the thieves got off with the effects before the shop-keepers were prepared to follow them.

Bellamy was so dextrous at these practices, that he was looked upon as leader of the gang: but when he had followed this infamous business about three years, he forged* a note by which he defrauded a linen-draper of money to a considerable amount. Being taken into custody for this forgery, he was lodged in Newgate; but discharged without being brought to trial, his friends having found means to accommodate the matter with the injured party.

In a short time after he left Newgate he made connections with Jonathan Wild, and by a frequent attendance at his office, dived so far into the mysteries of his profession, and was so convinced of the great profit that attended it, that he formed an idea of engaging in the same business on his own account.

At this time Wild used frequently to borrow money of a Mr. Wildgoose, who kept an inn in Smithfield: and Bellamy wishing to become acquainted with a man whom he thought he could make subservient to his interest, applied to Jonathan to recommend him to Wildgoose; but this
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* Forgery was not at that time a capital offence.

the famous thief-taker absolutely refused; on which Bellamy determined to take his revenge on Wild.

Having often gone with messages and notes from Jonathan to Wildgoose, and being well acquainted with the hand-writing of the former, he forged a draught on the latter for ten guineas, which Wildgoose paid without hesitation; and as soon as Bellamy had got the money he omitted to pay his usual visits at Wild's office.

It happened that, a few days after this transaction, Wild went to his acquaintance to borrow some money, when Wildgoose told him he had paid his draught for the above-mentioned sum, and producing the note, Jonathan could not be certain that it was not his own hand-writing, otherwise than by recollecting that he had never given such a draught. Wildgoose was unacquainted with Bellamy's name; but, by the description of his person, Jonathan soon found who had committed the forgery, on which he ordered his myrmidons to be careful to apprehend the offender.

The consequence was that Bellamy was soon found in a lodging in White friars, and Jonathan's men sent word to their master that they had him in custody, and begged he would come and give orders how they should dispose of him: but, in the interim, Bellamy, who expected no mercy from the old thief-taker, seized the advantage of the casual absence of his attendants from the room, fixed a rope to the bar of the window, and let himself into the street, though the room was three stories high.

He now entertained thoughts of accommodating the affair with Wild, imagining he should be treated with the utmost severity, if he should
be

be re-apprehended: but before he had proceeded in this negotiation, Wild's men seized him at a gin-shop in Chancery-lane, and sent to their master for instructions how to act. To this message Jonathan returned an answer that they might give him his liberty, on the condition that he should come to the office, and adjust the business with himself.

Hereupon Bellamy was discharged: but knowing how dangerous it would be to affront Wild, he went the following morning to a public-house in the Old-Bailey, where he sent for Jonathan to breakfast with him: and the latter sending for Wildgoose, Bellamy gave him a note for the money received, and no farther steps were taken in the affair.

As soon as this business was adjusted, Bellamy renewed his former plan of making depredations on the public, and committed an immense number of robberies: but before we recite the particulars of them we shall mention the following trick, which is remarkable on account of its singularity.

Bellamy walking near the Royal-Exchange, fell into company with a kidnapper, one of those rascals who obtain an infamous subsistence by enticing distressed young people to go abroad, under pretence that they will be there well provided for. Bellamy thinking this fellow a proper subject to employ his genius, pretended that he was out of employment, and ambitious of visiting America.

The kidnapper represented America as the country where industry and merit could not fail of success, even to the attainment of an ample fortune; saying, "I have helped many young peo-

“ ple to places, who were out of employment, who
 “ are now so rich that they keep their carriages. I
 “ am not a mean, time-serving wretch, who takes
 “ money for these things : but all my view is to be
 “ of service to the distressed.”—In this instance
 the kidnapper intended to gull the thief, and the
 thief to take in the kidnapper

Bellamy having lived some time at the expence
 of his new acquaintance, the day at length arrived
 when his indentures were to be signed, as the ship
 in which he was to embark was on the point of sail-
 ing. There were other young fellows who were to
 be bound ; and when they came to the magistrate’s
 the kidnapper recollected that he had left some pa-
 pers behind him, and desired Bellamy to go back
 for them. He did as directed ; and told the man’s
 wife that her husband wanted two guineas to pay
 the expence of indenturing the people who were
 with him. The woman readily delivered the mo-
 ney, with which Bellamy decamped, and the kid-
 napper saw no more of him.

The following is an account of the principal
 robberies committed by Bellamy and his com-
 panions ; and a relation of their attempts to
 commit some robberies, in which they did not
 succeed.

Bellamy and one of his gang having broken the
 sash of a silversmith’s shop in Ruffel-court, Drury-
 lane, a person who lay under the compter fired a
 blunderbuss at them, which obliged them to de-
 camp without their booty. This attempt failing,
 they went to the house of another silversmith,
 which they broke open, and finding the servant-
 maid sitting up for her master, they terrified her into
 silence, and carried off effects to a large amount.

Not long after this robbery they broke open
 the shop of a grocer near Shoreditch, in the ex-
 pectation

pectation of finding cash to a great amount : but the proprietor having previously secured it, they got only about ten pounds of tea, and the loose money in the till.

Their next attempt was at the house of a hosier in Widgate-alley, from whose shop they carried off some goods of value, which they sold to the Jews on the following day.

Bellamy and some of his fraternity made an attempt to break open the shop of a linen-draper in Bishopsgate-street on a Sunday evening ; when a woman who had watched their motions, knocked at the door just as they had effected an entrance : which obliged them to decamp with the utmost precipitation.

On the same night they attempted to break into a toy-shop in Swithin's-alley, Cornhill : and had wrenched the bars from the windows, when the shutters suddenly falling, the family was alarmed and their scheme frustrated. Yet, notwithstanding this, as soon as the neighbourhood was quiet, they went back to the same alley, and broke open the house of a shoemaker, whence they stole a great number of shoes, and plate to a large amount, which they disposed of to the Jews on the following day.*

Bellamy and his associates having broke open the shop of a barber in George-Yard, Lombard-street, found very little that they thought worth

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their

* The Jews are the most notorious receivers of stolen plate, and consequently the greatest encouragers of housebreakers in this kingdom. If we had a law to make the receiving of stolen goods a capital offence the property of honest housekeepers would be much more secure than at present.

their notice, and therefore carried off all the wigs; but not being able to sell them to any advantage, they took them to the King's-Bench, and gave them away to the debtors.

Soon afterward's they broke into a shoemaker's shop in Eastcheap, and stole a number of shoes, which they packed in a bag; but a watchman observing them, they dropped their ill-gotten prize, knocked him down, and effected their escape.

From the shop of a silversmith in Bride-lane they carried off plate to the amount of fifty pounds; and from the house of a haberdasher in Bishopsgate-street; a load of various articles, the whole of which they disposed of to the Jews.

On another occasion they broke open a tea-shop near Gray's-Inn-Lane; having removed the shutters, by cutting away part of them with chissels, they were going to lift up the sash, when a person from within hearing them, cried out thieves! on which they ran off without their booty.

Having broke into a tea-warehouse near Aldgate, they had packed up a valuable parcel of goods, when the maid-servant came down stairs, undressed, and without a candle. Having gone into the yard, she returned, without knowing that they were in the house: but when she came into the shop Bellamy seized her, and obliged her to lay on the floor, while they went off with their booty: and the same night they broke open the shop of a mercer in Bishopsgate-street, whence they carried off goods to a large amount.

Their next robbery was at the house of a grocer in Thames-street. The watchman passing by as they were packing up their booty, Bellamy seized him, and obliged him to put out his candle, to prevent any alarm being given. Having
kept

kept him till they were ready to go off with their plunder, they took him to the side of the Thames, and threatened to throw him in, if he would not throw in his lanthorn and staff. It need not be said that the poor man was obliged to comply with their injunctions.

Soon after this they stole a large sum of money and a quantity of goods from the house of a grocer, which they broke open in Aldersgate-street. A neighbour saw this robbery from his window, but was too much frightened to take any measures for the detection of the villains.

Their next exploit was at an old cloaths shop kept by a woman in Shadwell, whence they carried off every valuable article; and after this they robbed the shop of a hosier in Coleman-street, and took away goods to the amount of seventy pounds, which the thieves divided into shares, and sold them to their old acquaintance, the Jews.

They were disappointed in their next attempt, which was to break open the house of a linen draper in Westminster: for some people coming up before they had compleated their operations, they were obliged to decamp with precipitation.

On the evening after this transaction, observing the door of a shop shut in St. Clement's Church-Yard, they made it fast with a cord on the outside, and throwing up the sash, stole a very large number of silk handkerchiefs, while a woman in the shop made many fruitless attempts to open the door: and they stole a variety of plate, wearing apparel and other effects, the same night, from two houses in Holborn.

Soon after this they stole goods to the amount of twenty pounds from a house which they broke open in Red-Lion-street; and breaking another
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the same night in Fullwood's-Rents, obtained about an equal booty.

While they were thus rendering themselves the mere pests of society, they became intimate with an old woman who had opened an office near Leicester-fields, for the reception of stolen goods, something on the plan of that of Jonathan Wild. To this woman Bellamy and his companions used to sell much of their ill-gotten effects; but she having, on one occasion, given a smaller price than they expected, Bellamy determined on a plan of revenge; in pursuance of which he went to her office with a small quantity of stolen plate; and while she was gone with it to a silversmith, he broke open her drawers, and carried off her cash to a large amount.

His next adventures were the breaking open a house in Petticoat-lane, and another in Grocer's-alley in the Poultry, at both of which places he made large prizes: and soon afterwards he stopped a man near Houndsditch, and robbed him of his money.

At length he robbed a shop in Monmouth-street: but by this time he had rendered himself so conspicuous for his daring villainies, that a reward of 100*l.* was offered for the apprehending him, in consequence of which he was taken, near the Seven-Dials, on the following day, and committed to Newgate.

For this last fact he was tried, convicted, and received sentence; and after his conviction he wrote a narrative of his robberies, from which the above account is taken.

From the time of conviction till the arrival of the warrant for his execution, he affected a cheerfulness of behaviour, and said that he would be
hanged

hanged in his shroud: but the certainty that he should suffer, and the sight of his coffin, excited more serious ideas in his mind: and he received the sacrament a few days before his death, with evident marks of repentance for the many crimes of which he had been guilty.

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 27th of March, 1728, and just before he was turned off made a speech to the surrounding multitude, of which the following is a copy.

“ Gentlemen,

I AM brought here to suffer an ignominious death, for my having wilfully transgressed against the known laws of God and my country; I fear there are too many here present who come to be witnesses of my untimely end, rather out of curiosity than from a sincere intention to take warning by my unhappy fate; you see me here in the very prime of my youth, cut off like an untimely flower in a rigorous season, through my having been too much addicted to a voluptuous and irregular course of life, which has been the occasion of my committing these crimes for which I am now to suffer.

As the laws of God as well as men call upon me to lay down my life, as justly forfeited by my manifold transgressions, I acknowledge the justice of my sentence; I patiently submit to the same, without any rancour, ill-will or malice to any person whatsoever, hoping through the merits of Christ Jesus (who laid down his life for sinners, and who upon the cross pronounced a pardon for the repenting thief under the agonies of death) to be with him admitted to partake of that glorious resurrection and immortality he has been so graciously pleased to promise to the sincere

cere penitent. I earnestly exhort and beg of all here present to think seriously of eternity, a long and endless eternity! in which we are to be rewarded or punished according to our good or evil actions in this world: that you will all take warning by me, and refrain from all wilful transgressions and offences; let a religious disposition prevail upon you, and use your utmost endeavours to forsake and flee from sin.

The mercies of God are great, and he can save even at the last moment of life; yet do not therefore presume too much, lest you provoke him to cast you off in his anger, and you become fearful examples of wrath and indignation.

Let me prevail upon you to forget and forgive me all the offences and injuries I have either committed or promoted in action, advice, or example: and entreat your prayers for me, that the Lord would in mercy look down upon me, in the last moments of my life.

This malefactor made a rapid, and, what some would call a successful, progress in vice. It will be observed that his robberies were very numerous, and followed very fast on each other. But what was the event of the whole?—That event which as naturally follows the perpetration of such crimes, as the shadow does the substance: all his artifices tended but to his ruin—to disgrace, ignominy, and death.

We hope that the fate of this man will be an additional caution to the many already given to young people, to shun those paths which lead to inevitable destruction. The following words of the poet will be applicable on this occasion.

Why

Why should I deprive my neighbour
 Of his goods against his will?
 Hands were made for honest labour,
 Not to plunder or to steal.

'Tis a foolish self-deceiving
 By such tricks to hope for gain:
 All that's ever got by thieving
 Turns to sorrow, shame, and pain.

Of we see a young beginner
 Practice little pilfering ways
 'Till grown up a hardened finner;
 —Then the gallows ends his days.

Account of the very singular Case of MARGARET
 DICKSON, who was hanged for Murder, but re-
 covered after Execution.

THIS woman was the daughter of poor pa-
 rents, who lived at Musselburgh, about five
 miles from Edinburgh, and brought up their child
 in the practice of religious duties, and also instruct-
 ed her in such household business as was likely to
 suit her future station in life.

The village of Musselburgh is almost entirely
 inhabited by gardeners, fishermen, and persons em-
 ployed in making salt. The husbands having
 prepared the several articles for sale, the wives
 carry them to Edinburgh, and procure a subsist-
 ence by crying them through the streets of that
 city.

When the woman of whom we are writing ar-
 rived at years of maturity she was married to a
 fisherman, to whom she bore several children:

but there being a want of seamen, her husband was impressed into the naval service; and during his absence from Scotland, his wife had an illicit connection with a man at Muffelburg, in consequence of which she became pregnant.

It was heretofore customary in Scotland that a woman known to have been unchaste should sit in a distinguished place in the church, on three Sundays, to be publickly rebuked by the minister: and there have been several instances of the infant being destroyed; because the mother dreaded to submit to this public exposure*: for such was the malice of the Scotch women, that those would go to church to be witnesses to the frailty of a sister, who would not go on any other occasion.

The neighbours of Mrs. Dickson averred that she was with child; but this she constantly denied though there was every appearance that might warrant the discrediting what she said. At length, however, she was delivered of a child: but it is uncertain whether it was born alive or not.

Be this as it may, she was taken into custody, and lodged in the goal of Edinburgh. When her trial came on, several witnesses deposed that she had been frequently pregnant; others proved, that there were signs of her having been delivered, and that a new-born infant had been found near the place of her residence.

A surgeon deposed that putting the lungs of the infant into water, they were found to swim; which

* This seems to prove, in a very striking manner, the value of our Foundling Hospital in London, which has, doubtless, been the occasion of saving the lives of great numbers of helpless infants, who would otherwise have been destroyed.

which was deemed a proof that the child had been alive: for it was a received opinion that if no air be ever drawn into the lungs, they will not swim: but this circumstance is a matter of doubt even among the gentlemen of the faculty: however, the jury giving credit to the evidence against her, brought in a verdict of *Guilty*, in consequence of which she was doomed to die.

After her condemnation she behaved in the most penitent manner, confessed that she had been guilty of many sins, and even owned that she had departed from the line of duty to her husband; but she constantly and steadily denied that she had murdered her child, or even formed an idea of so horrid a crime. She owned that the fear of being exposed to the ridicule of her neighbours in the church, had tempted her to deny that she was pregnant; and she said that, being suddenly seized with the pains of child-birth, she was unable to procure the assistance of her neighbours: and that a state of insensibility ensued, so that it was impossible she should know what became of the infant.

At the place of execution her behaviour was consistent with her former declaration. She avowed her total innocence of the crime of which she was convicted, but confessed the sincerest sorrow for all her other sins.

After execution her body was cut down and delivered to her friends, who put it into a coffin, and sent it in a cart to be buried at her native place: but the weather being sultry, the persons who had the body in their care stopped to drink at a village called Pepper-Mill, about two miles from Edingburgh. While they were refreshing themselves, one of them perceived the lid of the coffin move, and uncovering it, the woman im-

mediately sat up, and most of the spectators ran off with every sign of trepidation.

It happened that a person who was then drinking in the public house, had recollection enough to bleed her; and in about an hour she was put to bed: and by the following morning she was so far recovered as to be able to walk to her own house.

By the Scottish law, which is in part founded on that of the Romans, a person against whom the judgment of the court has been executed can suffer no more in future, but is thenceforward totally exculpated: and it is likewise held that the marriage is dissolved by the execution of the convicted party: which indeed is consistent with the ideas that common sense would form on such an occasion.

Mrs. Dickson then being convicted and executed as abovementioned, the king's advocate could prosecute her no farther; but he filed a bill in the High Court of Justiciary against the sheriff, for omitting to fulfil the law. The husband of this revived convict married her publickly a few days after she was hanged; and she constantly denied that she had been guilty of the alledged crime. She was living as late as the year 1753. This singular transaction took place in the year 1728.

The observation to be made on this uncommon affair amounts to no more than a lesson of caution to juries to be careful how they convict the culprit on circumstantial evidence: for the evidence against this woman was at best but circumstantial; and her steady denial of her guilt after her wonderful escape from the grave, is a strong presumptive argument that she was not guilty.

Account

Account of JAMES CARNEGIE, Esq, who was tried for the Murder of LORD STRATHMORE, and acquitted.

MR. CARNEGIE was a gentleman of fortune, whose estate being contiguous to that of Charles Earl of Strathmore, a considerable degree of intimacy subsisted between the parties, which was encreased by the similarity of their political sentiments; both of them being favourers of the claims of the Pretender.

Lady Auchterhouse, who was sister to Mr. Carnegie, having invited some of the neighbouring gentry to visit her, there went among the rest John Lyon, Esq. a young gentleman who paid his addresses to another sister of Mr. Carnegie. Mr. Lyon's view in this visit was to ask Carnegie's consent to the match; but this the latter absolutely refused, and abused Lion with so much scurrility, that a quarrel ensued, and swords were drawn by both parties. The Earl of Strathmore, anxious to prevent bloodshed, exerted all his influence to reconcile the contending parties, and at length so far succeeded that all animosity seemed to have subsided, and the company sat down and drank together, as if no quarrel had arisen.

The conversation now took a political turn; and as the company were of different sentiments, high words of altercation arose: and the king and the pretender were abused in a manner equally illiberal.

At length the passions of the parties were so inflamed that they had recourse to blows, and some of them quitting the house, among whom were Lyon and Carnegie, the former pushed the latter on the ground, which enraged him so much that he
arose

arose and drew his sword, but Lyon had consulted his safety by flight. Carnegie followed him a little way, but falling in the pursuit, was lifted up by some of the company, when turning about with the fury of a madman, he ran his sword into the body of Lord Strathmore.

This melancholy event had no sooner taken place than the company returned to Lady Auchterhouse's, except the Earl of Strathmore, who was carried home, and died soon after.

A neighbouring magistrate being informed of what had happened, went to the house and demanded the gentlemen's swords, which were delivered; but Mr. Carnegie having been concealed under some flax in an outhouse, he required that Lady Auchterhouse should tell where he was, which she did, and the magistrate having received his sword, sent him to the prison of Forfar.

Some weeks afterwards he was removed, to be tried before the Court of Justiciary at Edinburgh; which is somewhat similar to our Court of King's Bench in England*.

On the trial it was proved that Lyon had behaved in the most insulting manner to Carnegie, who did not draw his sword till he had been pushed down, as above-mentioned. It was likewise proved that Lord Strathmore had lived on terms of the utmost friendship with Mr. Carnegie: and that, on other occasions, when the latter had been insulted by Lyon, the Earl had protected him.

A witness swore that Mr. Carnegie had proposed Lady Strathmore's health when in company, and that

* There are no grand Juries in Scotland. The king's advocate draws the indictment: the judges determine if the crime be capital; and the fact is tried by a petit jury.

that he sat next the Earl. It was sworn also that Carnegie, since his confinement, had regretted the melancholy issue of the quarrel, as it had deprived him of one of his most valuable friends, and a person whom he could have had no thought of injuring.

Another evidence deposed that the behaviour of Mr. Lyon to Mr. Carnegie was insupportably aggravating: that he had pushed him on the breast, and otherwise ill-treated him: and that he seized Lady Auchterhouse by the hand, and struck it so violently on the table, that she cried out through the extremity of pain.

On the other hand, one of Lord Strathmore's servants swore that Mr. Carnegie stabbed his master *twice* in the belly: but the surgeon that examined the wound gave a more favourable account of the matter than the servant.

The trial lasted a considerable time, when the jury, considering on the whole matter, gave a verdict that the prisoner was not guilty. These transactions took place in the month of July, 1728.

This unfortunate affair seems to have arisen principally from a difference in political sentiments, when the parties were probably heated with liquor; and it will therefore afford a lesson equally forcible against the crime of intoxication, and the folly of quarrelling with any man because he may be of a different opinion from ourselves.

The man who deprives himself of the use of his reason by swallowing immoderate quantities of liquor, is destroying his own health, while he is wasting the bounties of providence: and he is frequently in the high road to the commission of a greater crime than he may have any idea of:

for

for numerous have been the instances of murder, which have been the direct consequence of intoxication. For this reason then, amidst a thousand others, let the high value of the virtue of sobriety be impressed upon the mind.

With regard to disputes on political matters, they are almost always idle and unavailing. People imbibe their sentiments of this kind from the bias of their education, and the instructions given them by their parents: and every man has a right to think as he pleases of the measures of government, provided he lives in peace, and in a dutiful submission to the laws.

We cannot conclude this article better than in the words of an honest dissenter, who being in company with a zealous member of the church of England, who would have quarrelled with him on the difference of their religious sentiments; "No! no! my worthy friend (said he,) you and I will AGREE TO DIFFER."

Full Account of JOHN EVERETT, who was hanged at *Tyburn*, for robbing on the Highway.

THIS malefactor was a native of Hitchin in Hertfordshire, and had been well educated; his father possessing 300l. per annum. He was apprenticed to a salesman; but running away from his master he entered into the army, and served in Flanders, where he behaved so well that he was promoted to the rank of serjeant.

On the return of his regiment to England, Everett purchased his discharge, and repairing to London, bought the place of an officer of White-chapel Court, in which he continued about seven
years

years, but was obliged to abandon it through the following circumstance:

Having given liberty to some persons whom he had arrested, one Charlesworth, a solicitor of that court, caused him to be discharged, and then sued him for the amount of the debts of the parties to whom his inconsiderate good-nature had given their liberty.

To evade going to prison Everett enlisted in Lord Albemarle's company of foot guards; soon after his engaging in the army he fell into company with Richard Bird, with whom he had been formerly acquainted. This Bird hinted that great advantages might be acquired in a particular way, if Everett could be trusted: and the latter, anxious to know what the plan was, learnt that it was to go on the road: on which an agreement was immediately concluded.

Hereupon they set out on their expedition, and robbed several stages in the counties adjacent to London; from which they obtained considerable booty in jewels, money, and valuable effects.

Thus successful in their first exploits they went to Hounslow-Heath, where they stopped two military officers, who were attended by servants armed with blunderbusses; but they obliged them to submit, and robbed them of their money and watches: but the watches were afterwards left, according to agreement, at a coffee-house near Charing-Cross, and the thieves received twenty guineas for restoring them.

Soon after this they stopped a gentleman in an open chaise near Epsom. The gentleman drew his sword, and made several passes at them; yet they robbed him of his watch, two guineas, his sword, and some writings: but they returned the

writings, at the earnest request of the injured party.

These companions in iniquity made a practice of robbing the butchers and higlers on Epping Forest, on their way to London. One of these robberies was singular. Meeting with an old woman, a higler, they searched the lining of a high-crowned hat, which she said had been her mother's, in which they found about three pounds; but returned her hat.

Soon after this they stopped a coach on Hounslow-Heath, in which were two quakers, who calling them "Sons of violence," jumped out of the coach to oppose them: but their fellow travellers making no resistance, and begging them to submit, all the parties were robbed of their money.

Everett remarking that one of the quakers wore a remarkable good wig, snatched it from his head, and gave him in return an old black tye which he had purchased for half a crown of a Chelsea pensioner. This sudden metamorphose caused great mirth among the other company in the coach.

About ten days after this Everett and his companion walked to Hillingdon Common, where they watched some time for their prey, and permitted many persons to pass them; but seeing two gentlemen on horseback coming, Everett stopped the foremost and Bird the other, and robbed them of upwards of three guineas and their gold watches; and then they cut the girths of the saddle, and secured the bridles, to prevent a pursuit.

They now hastened to Brentford, where they heard of a pursuit after them, on which they got into the ferry to cross the Thames; and when they were three parts over, so that the river was fordable,

fordable, they gave the ferrymen ten shillings, and obliged them to throw their oars into the river. They then jumped overboard and got on shore, while the spectators thought it was only a drunken frolic, and the robbers got safe to London.

Some time after this Everett was convicted of an attempt to commit a robbery on the highway, for which he was sentenced for three years imprisonment in New Prison Clerkenwell, where, after some time, he was employed to act as turnkey, and his conduct meeting with approbation, he remained in that station after the term of his imprisonment was expired; but the keeper dying, he took a public-house in Turnmill Street.

He had not been long in this station, when a new keeper being appointed, he frequently called on him, and made him advantageous offers, on the condition of his re-assuming the office of turnkey. This he did; but when Everett had perfectly instructed him in the management of the prison, he dismissed him; without assigning any reason for so ungenerous a conduct.

Everett being now greatly in debt, was obliged to remove within the rules of the Fleet-prison, and took a public-house in the Old-Bailey; after which he took the Cock Alehouse in the same street, which he kept three years with reputation, when the warden of the fleet persuaded him to keep the tap-house of the said prison.

While in this station he was charged with being concerned with the keeper in some mal-practices, for which the House of Commons ordered him to be confined in Newgate: but he obtained his liberty at the end of the sessions, as no bill had been found against him.

During his confinement, his brewer seized his stock of beer, to the amount of above 300*l.* which reduced him to circumstances of great distress: yet he even now resolved on a life of industry, if he could have got employment; but his character was such that no person would engage him.

Thus distressed, he once more equipped himself for the high-way, with a view, as he solemnly declared after sentence of death, to raise only fifty pounds, as his brewer would have given him credit if he could have possessed himself of that sum; but it will be found that he did not succeed in the rash enterprize.

Having stopped a coach on the Hampstead-Road, in which were a lady, her daughter, and a child about five years old, the child was so terrified at his presenting a pistol, that he withdrew it at the request of the lady, who gave him a guinea and some silver: but though he observed she had a watch, some gold rings, &c. yet he did not demand them.

Some company riding up, he was followed to the end of Leather-Lane, where he evaded the pursuit by turning into Hatton-Garden, and going into the Globe Tavern. Here he called for wine, and while he was drinking it he saw his pursuers pass; on which he paid his reckoning, and slipped to a public-house in Holborn, where he again saw them pass; but thinking himself now safe, he remained there a considerable time.

Concluding the pursuit at an end, he called a coach at the end of Brook-street, and driving to Honey-lane Market, he purchased a duck for his supper, and a turkey for his Christmas dinner; and then went to Newgate Market, where he lodged.

On

On the following day, one Whitaker (called the boxing drover) circulated a report that Everett had committed a high-way robbery: on which the latter loaded a brace of pistols, and vowed he would be revenged. He went to Islington in search of Whitaker, and visited several public-houses which he used to frequent; but not meeting with him, the perpetration of murder was happily prevented.

Gallantry seems to have been a striking feature in the character of Everett, of which the following instance may serve as an example.

A woman in the neighbourhood of Newgate-Market had buried her husband, who had left her enough to support herself and children with decency. Everett repeatedly visiting the widow, was received with too great marks of esteem, and assisted her in the dissipation of that money which should have provided for her family.

The widow's son, jealous of this connection, remonstrated with his mother on the impropriety of her conduct, and told her it would end in her ruin. This made Everett and her more cautious in their meetings: but the son watched them with the utmost degree of vigilance and circumspection.

Having, one evening, observed them go into a tavern, he provided himself with a large and sharp knife, and going into the room where they were sitting, swore he would stab Everett to the heart: but the latter, by superiority of strength, disarmed him. The young fellow was at length persuaded to sit down, when Everett assured him that he entertained the utmost respect both for himself and his mother; but the youth answered that he was a liar, and the mutual destruction both of mother
and

and children must follow their unlawful connection.

As the lad grew warm, Everett affected great coolness and good humour, and considered how he might most readily get rid of so unwelcome a guest; for he did not intend to part with the widow till he had made a property of her.

At length Everett determined to make the young fellow drunk, and plied him with such a quantity of liquor that he fell fast asleep, in which condition he was left, while the other parties adjourned to a distant tavern, where they remained till morning, when Everett borrowed seven guineas of the widow, under pretence of repaying her in a week.

Not long after this our adventurer was married to this very widow, at Stepney Church, by which he came into possession of money and plate to a considerable amount, and might have lived happily with her if he would have taken her advice; but the extravagance of his disposition led to his ruin.

When Everett was in very low circumstances he casually met his old accomplice, Bird, and joining with him in the commission of a robbery in Essex, they were both taken, and lodged in Chelmsford Goal: and, at the next assizes, Everett turned evidence, in consequence of which the other was convicted and executed.

When this notorious offender had obtained his liberty, he committed several robberies in the neighbourhood of London, the last of which was on a lady named Ellis, whom he stopped near Islington: but being taken into custody on the following day, he was tried, and capitally convicted.

This

This malefactor had been married to three wives, who visited him after sentence of death. He was likewise visited by the son of the widow already mentioned; but recollecting what had formerly passed between them, Everett would have stabbed him with a penknife, but was prevented by the interposition of one of his wives; and in an account he wrote of his transactions, he expresses his happiness that he had been thus prevented from the commission of murder.

But what seemed more deeply to affect him than any other circumstance, was the crime of perjury, of which he had been guilty, with a view to take away the life of an innocent man. One Picket, a cooper, having affronted him, he swore a robbery against him; but the jury not being satisfied with the evidence, the man was acquitted.

Mr. Nicholson, the minister of St. Sepulchre's Church, attended the prisoner while under sentence of death; and kindly exerted himself to convince him of the atrocious nature of his offences: but the numbers of people who visited him from motives of curiosity, took of his attention from his more important duties. However, he was at times serious, and would then advise his brethren in affliction to prepare for that death which now appeared unavoidable.

The goal distemper having seized him while in Newgate, a report was propagated that he had taken poison, but this was totally false. He wrote letters to some of his acquaintance, begging they would take warning by his unhappy fate, and avoid those steps which led him to his ruin.

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 20th of February, 1729, after behaving in such a manner as induced the spectators to think that his penitence for his past crimes was unaffected.

We see, in this story, that Everett had for a long time escaped the punishment due to his repeated crimes, yet was at last detected, and brought to justice. We find that this offender got into credit, after he had committed several robberies on the highway; but when future misfortunes overtook him he had recourse to his former practices to replenish his purse.

Hence, then, we may learn how difficult a thing it is to abandon an habitual course of vice. We see, also, that though persons tempted to acts of dishonesty, may think to escape undetected, they only deceive themselves by such idle imaginations. They should remember that the eye of heaven is always open to view their conduct, and to direct the punishment for the offence.

Theft will not be always hidden,
 Tho' we fancy none can spy:
 When we take a thing forbidden
 God beholds it with his eye.

Remarkable Particulars respecting the Case of Major JOHN ONEBY, who was convicted of Murder, and afterwards killed himself.

THE father of this offender was an attorney of considerable practice, at Barnwell in Leicestershire, where his unfortunate son was born, in the year 1677.

Young Oneby was intended for the profession of the law; and his father having married the niece of Sir Nathan Wright, who was appointed lord keeper of the great seal, he applied to him,
 ear.

earnestly soliciting that he would exert his influence in favour of his son.

At this request Sir Nathan promoted him to be his train-bearer, no invaluable place; but greatly inferior to what the young gentleman's ambition had taught him to aspire to. However, he kept his place some time, in expectation of preferment; but failing in his views of promotion in this line, he bought a commission in the army.

He served under the duke of Marlborough in several campaigns in Flanders, and was promoted in the army as the reward of his military merit. While in winter quarters at Bruges, at the close of one of these campaigns, he had a quarrel with another officer, which occasioned a duel, and Oneby having killed the other, was brought to his trial before a court martial, which acquitted him of the murder.

The regiment being soon afterwards ordered to Jamaica, Mr. Oneby went with it, and during his residence at Port Royal, fought another duel with a brother officer, whom he wounded in so dangerous a manner that he expired after an illness of several months; but as he did not instantly die, no farther notice was taken of the affair.

The rank of major in a regiment of dragoons had been conferred on Mr. Oneby, in consequence of his services: but on the peace of Utrecht he returned to England, and was reduced to half pay.

Repairing to London, he frequented the gaming houses, and became so compleat a gambler that he commonly carried cards and dice in his pockets. Having fallen into company with some gentlemen at a coffee-house in Covent-Garden,

they all adjourned to the Castle-Tavern in Drury-Lane, where they went to cards. Mr. Hawkins, who was of the company, having declined playing, Mr. Rich asked if any one would set him three half crowns. The bet was apparently accepted by William Gower, Esq. who, in ridicule, laid down three halfpence.

On this major Oneby abused Gower, and threw a bottle at him; and, in return, Gower threw a glass at the other. Swords were immediately drawn on both sides; but Mr. Rich interposing, the parties were apparently reconciled, and sat down to their former diversion.

Gower seemed inclined to compromise the difference, saying that he was willing to adjust the affair, though the major had been the aggressor. In answer to this Oneby said he "would have his blood;" and said to Mr. Hawkins that the mischief had been occasioned by him. Hawkins replied that "he was ready to answer if he had any thing to say:" to which Oneby said "I have another chap first."

Mr. Hawkins left the company about three o'clock in the morning, soon after which Mr. Oneby arose, and said to Gower, "Harkee, young gentleman, a word with you;" on which they retired to another room, and shut the door. A clashing of swords being heard by the company, the waiter broke open the door, and on their entrance they found Oneby holding Gower with his left hand, having his sword in the right: and Mr. Gower's sword laid on the floor.

Before the company could part the combatants Gower dropped to the ground; but it was not imagined that he had been wounded, till blood was observed streaming through his waistcoat. On this one of the company said to the major that

that he was apprehensive he had killed Mr. Gower; but the other replied, “No, I might have done it if I would; but I have only frightened him; but supposing I had killed him, I know what is to be done in these affairs; for if I had killed him to night, in the heat of passion, I should have had the law on my side; but if I had done it at any other time, it would have looked like a set meeting, and not a rencounter.”

A surgeon of eminence having examined Mr. Gower's wounds, it was found that the sword of his antagonist had passed through his intestines, of which wound he died the following day; on which Mr. Oneby was apprehended, and lodged in Newgate.

The circumstances above mentioned were stated on his trial; but some doubts arising in the minds of the jury, they brought in a special verdict, referable to the opinion of the twelve judges.

Mr. Oneby having remained in Newgate two years, and the judges not having met to give their opinion, he became impatient of longer confinement, and therefore moved the court of King's-Bench that council might be heard on his case.

Hereupon the prisoner was carried into court, by virtue of a writ of habeas corpus; and the record of the special verdict being read, the reverend bench, with great humanity, assigned him two council, a solicitor, and a clerk in court.

Lord chief justice Raymond, and three other judges, presided a few days afterwards, when the major being again brought up, his council, as well as those for the crown, were heard; after which the lord chief justice declared that he would take an opportunity of having the opinion of the

other judges; and then the prisoner should be informed of the event.

The major, on his return to Newgate, gave a handsome dinner, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand, to the persons who had the custody of him, and seeming to be in high spirits on account of the ingenious arguments used by his council, entertained little doubt of being discharged, and said he would spend the rest of his life in a military capacity.

After a considerable time the judges assembled at Serjeant's-Inn Hall, to bring the matter to a final decision. Council were heard on both sides, and the pleadings lasted a whole day, during which the major was carousing with his friends in Newgate, and boasting of the certainty of his escape, as he had only acted in conformity with the character of a man of honour.

In the midst of these delusive expectations, a gentleman called and told him that eleven of the judges had decreed against him; which greatly alarmed him. How far this was the fact could not then be known, for though the major employed several persons to wait at the Inn, to bring him information, they could learn nothing more than that the judges had broke up about ten o'clock at night, without declaring their opinion.

Not many days after this the keeper of Newgate told the major he must double iron him, to prevent his making his escape; and that he must be removed to a safer place, unless he would pay for a man, to attend him in his room. Oneby was shocked at this news, and asked the keeper's authority for such a proceeding; but he could obtain no satisfactory answer.

He

He was now loaded with irons; and having wrote several letters to the judges, and other persons of distinction, to which he received no answer, he began to be apprehensive that the most serious consequences would result from the crime of which he had been guilty.

The man appointed to attend the major in his room was one John Hooper, (who was afterwards executioner) a fellow of remarkable drollery, but of such a forbidding countenance, that when Oneby first saw him he exclaimed, "What the devil do you bring this fellow here for? Whenever I look at him I shall think of being hanged." Hooper, however, by a knack of telling stories, soon made himself a very agreeable companion to the major.

At length the judges assembled again at Serjeant's-Inn Hall, and having declared their opinions to each other, the council for the prosecution demanded that their lordships would proceed to judgment. Hereupon the sense of the bench was delivered to Mr. Oneby by lord Raymond, who said that it was the unanimous opinion of the judges that he had been guilty of murder: and that his declaring he would "have the blood" of Gower, had great weight in his disfavour.

To this the major solemnly declared that he had never spoken such words; and begged the interposition of the judges with his majesty for a pardon. Lord Raymond told him it was in vain for him to deny the words, as they were returned in the special verdict: and that the judges could not interfere by an application to the king; but that he must seek another channel through which to solicit the royal mercy.

A few days after this, judgment of death was passed against him; and he was ordered to be executed.

executed. His friends and relations exerted all their influence to procure him a pardon; but their intercessions proved in vain. For a while he flattered himself that his gambling companions would intercede in his favour, and he made application to them accordingly; but none of them interested themselves in any degree to do him service.

While the major was in confinement an author waited on him, and told him that a pamphlet was written in his disfavour; but that he would exert his best endeavours to put a stop to the publication. It was supposed that the author's view was to have learnt something from the major that might be inserted in the pamphlet; but failing to obtain any materials by these means, the book made its appearance in a few days.

This circumstance so enflamed the passions of Oneby, that he said "I would die willingly, if I could only get an opportunity of being revenged on that rascally, ragged author;" and he actually sent for him several times, with a view to have given him a drubbing; but the writer had more sagacity than to do honour to his invitation.

On the Saturday preceding the day that he was ordered for execution, an undertaker went to Newgate, and delivered him a letter, of which the following is a copy, saying that he would wait below for an answer.

"Honoured Sir,

This is to inform you that I follow the business of an undertaker in Drury-Lane, where I have lived many years, and am well known to several of your friends. As you are to die on Monday, and have not, as I suppose, spoke to
any

any body else about your funeral, if your honour shall think fit to give me orders, I will perform it as cheap, and in as decent a manner, as any man alive.

Your honour's unknown
humble servant,
G. H."

The major had no sooner read this letter than he flew into a violent passion; which being made known to the undertaker, he thought proper to decamp without waiting for his orders.

When Hooper came at night to attend Mr. Oneby, he told him of the letter he had received from the undertaker; and in terms very improper for his melancholy situation, expressed his resentment for the supposed affront.

Every hope of pardon being vanished, this unhappy man had recourse to a dreadful method of evading the ignominy of the gallows. On the night of the Saturday last mentioned, he went to bed at ten o'clock, and having slept till four o'clock on Sunday morning, he asked for a glass of brandy and water, and pen, ink, and paper; and sitting up in the bed, wrote the following note.

" Cousin Turvill,

Give Mr. Akerman, the turnkey below stairs, half a guinea; and Jack, who waits in my room, five shillings. The poor devils have had a great deal of trouble with me since I have been here."

Having delivered this note to his attendant, he begged to be left to his repose, that he might be fit for the reception of some friends who were to call on him. He was accordingly left, and a gen-

gentleman coming into his apartment about seven o'clock, and the major's footman with him; he called out to the latter, "Who is that, Philip?" which were the last words he was heard to speak.

The gentleman approaching the bed-side, found he had cut a deep wound in his wrist with a pen-knife, and was drenched in blood. A surgeon was instantly sent for, but he was dead before his arrival.

Mr. Oneby's fatal exit happened in the year 1729, after an imprisonment of above two years.

What shall we say to the case of this man? We trust that his crimes were such as none of the readers of this work will ever be tempted even to think of being guilty of. To the crime of having committed three murders on others, he at length added that of suicide.

Mr. Oneby was a military officer; and though he was acquitted on his trial for the first duel, and not brought to trial for the second, our military men will do well to reflect that the laws of God and nature will consider every duellist as a murderer. No provocation can warrant our taking away the life of a fellow creature!

But there is an argument that ought to have its full force with every foldier: this is no less than that the military law of our own country is strongly against duelling. The following extract out of the articles of war will speak for itself.

ARTICLE XX.

“ Nor shall any officer or foldier presume to
 “ send a challenge to any other officer or foldier,
 “ to fight a duel, upon pain of being cashiered,
 “ if he be an officer; or suffering the severest
 “ corporal punishment, if a non-commissioned
 “ officer,

“ officer, or private soldier: And if any officer,
 “ or non-commissioned officer, commanding a
 “ guard, shall willingly and knowingly suffer
 “ any person whatever to go forth to fight a duel,
 “ they shall be punished as above; and all se-
 “ conds also, and carriers of challenges, shall be
 “ taken as principals, and punished accordingly.
 “ —Nor shall any officer or soldier upbraid ano-
 “ ther for refusing a challenge, since, according
 “ to these our orders, they but do the duty of
 “ soldiers, who ought to subject themselves to
 “ discipline: And we do acquit and discharge all
 “ men who have quarrels offered, or challenges
 “ sent to them, of all disgrace, or opinion of
 “ disadvantage, in their obedience hereunto: and
 “ whosoever shall upbraid them, and offend in
 “ this case, shall be punished as a challenger.”

*Case of JAMES CLUFF, who was executed for
 Murder, in consequence of an Appeal.*

THIS unhappy young man was born in
 Clare-market, and lived as a waiter at se-
 veral public-houses, in all of which he main-
 tained an extraordinary character for diligence,
 obligingness, and integrity.

Mr. Payne, master of the Green Lattice in
 Holborn, hired Cluff as a servant, and during
 his residence here, he fell in love with Mary
 Green, his fellow-servant; but she being courted
 by another man, constantly rejected his addresses;
 which frequently agitated his mind in the most
 violent degree.

Green's other lover coming to see her, sat in the same box with her, and was received by her in an affectionate manner; but this did not seem to be much regarded by Cluff, who was then engaged in attending the customers: but when the lover was gone Mr. Payne perceiving that something had discomposed Cluff's mind, asked him the reason of it; but could not prevail on him to tell the cause.

While Mr. Payne and his wife were at dinner in the parlour, and the girl eating her dinner in one of the boxes, Mrs. Payne heard a noise as if two persons were struggling; and going into the tap room, Cluff said "Come hither Madam." On this she advanced, and saw the prisoner holding the deceased by the shoulders, who was sitting on the floor, and speechless; while the blood streamed from her in large quantities.

Mrs. Payne called out "What have you been doing James?" he said, "nothing." He was asked if he had seen her hurt herself. He said "No," "but that he had seen her bring up a knife from the cellar, where she had been to draw some beer for her dinner." Mr. Payne now entered the tap-room, and then went into the cellar, to discover if there was any blood there: but finding none, he accused Cluff on suspicion of having committed the murder; and instantly sent for a surgeon.

When the surgeon arrived he found that a knife had been stabbed into the upper part of the thigh, and entered the body of the girl, in such a manner that she could not survive the stroke more than a minute.

A bloody knife was found in the room; and Cluff was committed to Newgate for the murder.

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On his trial, the surgeon deposed that the knife fitted the wound that had been made, and that he believed the woman had not killed herself: but the jury acquitted the prisoner, from what they deemed insufficiency of evidence.

A discharge of the accused party would now have followed of course; but William Green, the brother and heir of the deceased, immediately lodged an appeal; in consequence of which Cluff was brought to trial at the next sessions but one, when his case was argued with the utmost ingenuity by the council for and against him; but this second jury found him guilty, and he was sentenced to die.

After conviction his behaviour was the most devout and resigned that could be imagined: he exercised himself in every act of devotion; but solemnly declared his perfect innocence with respect to the murder.

He was visited by his friends, who earnestly entreated him to make a sincere confession, especially as, in his case, it was not in the power of the king himself to grant him a pardon. In answer hereto he freely confessed all his other crimes; but, saying he would not rush into eternity with a lie in his mouth, again steadily denied the perpetration of the crime of which he had been convicted.

The clergyman who attended him urged him to the confession of his guilt, and even refused to administer the sacrament to him on the morning of his execution, on any other terms than those of acknowledging his crime; but nothing could shake his resolution:—he still steadily persisted in his innocence.

On his way to the place of execution, he desired to stop at the door of his late master; which

being granted, he called for a pint of wine, and having drank a glass of it, addressed Mr. Payne in the following terms:

“ Sir, you are not insensible that I am going to
 “ suffer an ignominious death, for a crime of
 “ which I declare I am not guilty; as I am to
 “ appear before my great judge in a few mo-
 “ ments to answer for all my past sins. I hope
 “ you and my good mistress will pray for my
 “ poor soul. God bless you, and all your
 “ family.”

At the place of execution he behaved in the most composed, devout, and resigned manner; and seemed to possess his mind in the consciousness of innocence. There was a great concourse of spectators to witness his fatal end; to whom he spoke in the following manner: “ Good people,
 “ I am going to die for a fact I never committed.
 “ I wish all mankind well, and as I have prayed
 “ for my prosecutors, I hope my sins will be for-
 “ given, through the merits of my ever blessed
 “ redeemer. I beg you to pray for my depart-
 “ ing soul, and as to the fact I now die for, I
 “ wish I was as free from all other sins.”

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 25th of July, 1729, exhibiting no signs of fear to his last moment.

The case of this man is very extraordinary. The evidence against him was at best but circumstantial: and this not supported with such strong corroborative proofs as have occasioned convictions in many other instances. No person was witness to his commission of the murder; nor was there any absolute proof that he did commit it; and from the steady perseverance with which he denied it, under the most awful circumstances, and at the very concluding scene of his life, cha-
 rity

urity would tempt one to believe that he was innocent.

Ought not his case to afford a lesson of caution to juries how they convict on circumstantial evidence? Is it not better that the guilty should escape than the innocent be punished? All the decrees of mortals are liable to error: but the time will come when all mists shall be cleared from our sight, and we shall witness to the wisdom of those laws of providence which are now inscrutable to mortal eyes. Then shall we see that what appeared inexplicable to us was divinely right; and learn to admire that wisdom which, at present, so much exceeds our finite comprehension.

In the mean time we ought to adore that goodness we cannot comprehend, and rest satisfied with those dispensations which are eternally and immutably just.

The very remarkable Case of JOHN GOW, commonly known by the name of CAPTAIN SMITH, who was Executed, with seven other persons for Piracy.

JOHAN GOW, who was a native of one of the Orkney Islands in the North of Scotland, was instructed in maritime affairs, in which he became so expert that he was appointed mate of a ship, in which he sailed on a voyage to Santa Cruz.

When the vessel was ready to weigh anchor from the place above-mentioned, the merchants who had shipped goods on board her, came to pay a parting visit to the captain, and to give him their final instructions.

On this occasion the captain, agreeable to custom, entertained his company under an awning on the quarter-deck; and, while they were regaling, some of the sailors preferred a complaint of ill-treatment they pretended to have received, particularly with regard to short allowance.

The captain was irritated at so undeserved a charge, which seemed calculated to prejudice him in the opinion of his employers: but conscious of the uprightness of his intentions, he did not reply in anger, but only said that there was a steward on board who had the care of the provisions, and that all reasonable complaints should be redressed: on which the seamen retired, with apparent satisfaction.

The wind being fair, the captain directed his men to weigh anchor as soon as the merchants had quitted the vessel. It was observed that Pateron, one of the complainants, was very dilatory in executing his orders: on which the captain demanded why he did not exert himself to unfurl the sails: to which he made no direct answer, but was heard to mutter, "As we eat, so shall we work." The captain heard this, but took no notice of it, as he was unwilling to proceed to extremities.

The ship had no sooner sailed than the captain considered his situation as dangerous, on reflecting that his conduct had been complained of, and his orders disobeyed. Hereupon he consulted the mate, and they agreed to deposit a number of small arms in the cabin, in order to defend themselves in case of an attack. This precaution might have been extremely salutary, but that they spoke so loud as to be overheard by two of the conspirators, who were on the quarter-deck.

The

The captain likewise directed the mate to order Gow who was second mate and gunner, to clean the arms; a circumstance that must plainly insinuate to the latter that the conspiracy was at least suspected.

Those who had overheard the conversation between the captain and mate, communicated the substance of it to Gow and the other conspirators, who thereupon resolved to carry the plan into immediate execution. Gow, who had previously intended to turn pirate, thought the present an admirable opportunity, as there were several chests of money on board the ship: wherefore he proposed to his companions that they should immediately embark in the enterprize; and they determined to murder the captain, and seize the ship.

Half of the ship's company were regularly called to prayers in the great cabin at eight o'clock in the evening, while the other half were doing duty on deck; and, after service, those who had been in the cabin went to rest in their hammocks. The contrivance was to execute the plot at this juncture. Two of the conspirators only remained on duty: the rest being among those who retired to their hammocks.

Between nine and ten at night a kind of watch word was given, which was "Who fires first?" On this some of the conspirators left their hammocks, and going to the cabins of the surgeon, chief mate, and supercargo, they cut their throats while they were sleeping.

The surgeon finding himself violently wounded, quitted his bed, and soon afterwards dropped on the floor and expired. The mate and supercargo held their hands to their throats, and going on the quarter-deck, solicited a momentary respite.

spite, to recommend their souls to heaven : but even this favour was denied : for the villains, who found their knives had failed to destroy them, dispatched them with pistols.

The captain hearing a noise, demanded the occasion of it: The boatswain replied that he did not know, but he was apprehensive that some of the men had either fallen or been thrown overboard. The captain hereupon went to look over the ship's side, on which two of the murderers followed, and tried to throw him into the sea; but he disengaged himself, and turned about to take a view of them; when one of them cut his throat, but not so as to kill him; for he now solicited mercy; but, instead of granting it, the other stabbed him in the back with a dagger, and would have repeated his blow; but he had struck with such force, that he could not draw back the weapon.

At this instant Gow, who had been assisting in the murders between the decks, came on the quarter-deck, and fired a brace of balls into the captain's body, which put a period to his life.

The execrable villains concerned in this tragical affair having thrown all the dead bodies overboard, Gow was unanimously appointed to the command of the ship.

Those of the sailors who had not been engaged in the conspiracy, secreted themselves, some in the shrouds, some under the stores, in dreadful apprehension of sharing the fate of the captain and their murdered companions.

Gow now assembled his associates on the quarter deck, appointed them their different stations on board, and it was agreed to commence pirates. The new captain now directed that the men who had concealed themselves should be informed that

no

no danger would happen to them if they did not interfere to oppose the new government of the ship, but keep such stations as were assigned them.

The men, whose terrors had taught them to expect immediate death, were glad to comply with these terms; but the pirates, to enforce obedience to their orders, appointed two men to attend with drawn cutlasses, to terrify the others into submission.

Gow and his companions now divided the most valuable effects in the cabin; and then ordering liquor to be brought on the quarter deck, they consumed the night in drinking, while those unconnected in the conspiracy had the care of working the ship.

The ship's crew originally consisted of twenty-four men, of whom four had been murdered, and eight were conspirators; and before morning four of the other men had approved of the proceedings of the pirates; so that there were only eight remaining in opposition to the newly usurped authority.

On the following day the new captain summoned these eight men to attend him, and telling them he was determined to go on a cruizing voyage, said that they should be well treated if they were disposed to act in concert with the rest of the crew. He said that every man should fare in the same manner, and that good order and discipline was all that would be required. He said farther that the captain's inhumanity had produced the consequences which had happened: that those who had not been concerned in the conspiracy had no reason to fear any ill consequences from it: that they had only to discharge their duty as

seamen, and every man should be rewarded according to his merit.

To this address these unfortunate honest men made no kind of reply; and Gow interpreted their silence into an assent to measures which it was not in their power to oppose. After this declaration of the will of the new captain they were permitted to range the ship at their pleasure; but as some of them appeared to act very reluctantly, a strict eye was kept on their conduct; for, as guilt is ever suspicious, the pirates were greatly apprehensive of being brought to justice by means of some of these men.

A man named Williams now acted as lieutenant of the vessel, and, being distinguished by the ferocity of his nature, he had an opportunity of exerting his cruelty by beating the unhappy men; a privilege that he did not fail to exert with a degree of severity that must render his memory detestable.

The ship thus seized had been called the *George Galley*, but the pirates gave her the name of the *Revenge*. and having mounted several guns, they steered towards Spain and Portugal, in expectation of making a capture of wine, of which article they were greatly deficient.

They soon made prize of an English vessel, laden with fish, bound from Newfoundland, to *Cadiz*; but having no use for the cargo, they took out the captain and four men who navigated the ship, which they sunk.

One of the seamen whom they took out of the captured vessel was named *James Belvin*; a man admirably calculated for their purpose, as he was by nature cruel, and by practice hardened in that cruelty. He said to Gow that he was willing to enter into all his schemes, for he had been accustomed

tomed to the practice of acts of barbarity. This man was thought a valuable acquisition to the crew, as several of the others appeared to act from motives of fear, rather than of inclination.

The next vessel taken by the pirates was a Scotch ship bound to Italy with pickled herrings; but this cargo, like the former, being of no use to them, they sunk the vessel, having first taken out the men, arms, ammunition, and stores.

After cruizing eight or ten days, they saw a vessel about the size of their own, to which they gave chase. She hoisted French colours, and crowded all her sail in order to get clear of them; and after a chase of three days and nights, they lost the French vessel in a fog.

Being distressed for water, they now steered towards the Madeira Islands, of which they came in sight in two days; but not thinking it prudent to enter the harbour, they steered off and on for several days, in expectation of making prize of some Portuguese or Spanish vessel; but their expectations were frustrated.

Their distress encreasing, they stood in for the harbour, and brought the ship to an anchor, but at a considerable distance from the shore. This being done, they sent seven men, well armed, in a boat, with instructions to board a ship, cut her cables, and bring her off; but if they failed in this, they were to attempt to make prize of wine and water conveying in the boats to the ships. But both these schemes were frustrated, since it was easily known from the distance they lay at, that they were pirates.

When they had cruized off for some days they found themselves in such distress, that it became absolutely necessary to seek immediate relief; on

which they sailed to Port Santa, a Portuguese settlement at the distance of about ten leagues.

On their arrival off this place they sent their boat on shore, with a present of salmon and herrings for the governor, and the name of a port to which they pretended to be bound. The persons sent on shore were civilly treated by the governor, who accompanied some of his friends on board the ship. Gow and his associates received the governor very politely, and entertained him and his company in the most hospitable manner; but the boat belonging to the pirates not coming on board with some provisions they had expected, and the governor and his attendants preparing to depart, Gow and his people threatened to take away their lives, unless they instantly furnished them with what they required.

The surprize of the Portuguese governor and his friends on this occasion is not to be expressed. They dreaded instant death, and with every sign of extreme fear, solicited that their lives might be spared. Gow being peremptory in his demands, the governor sent a boat repeatedly on shore, till the pirates were furnished with such articles as they wanted.

This business being ended, the Portuguese were permitted to depart, and the pirates determined to steer towards the coast of Spain, where they soon arrived. After cruising a few days off Cape St. Vincent they fell in with an English vessel bound from the coast of Guinea to America, with slaves: but had been obliged to put into the port of Lisbon; however, it would have been of no use for them to have made capture of such a vessel: yet they did take it, and putting on board the captain and men they had heretofore taken,
and

and taking out all the provisions, and some of the sails, they left the ship to proceed on her voyage.

Falling in with a French ship laden with wine, oil and fruit, they took out the lading, and gave the vessel to the Scotch captain, in return for his ship which they had sunk. The Scotchman was likewise presented with some valuable articles, and permitted to take his men to sail with him, all of whom did so except one, who continued with the pirates through choice.

The day previous to this affair they observed a French ship bearing down towards them; on which Gow ordered his people to lay to; but observing that the vessel mounted two and thirty guns, and seemed proportionably full of men, he assembled his people, and observed to them that it would be madness in them to think of engaging so superior a force.

The crew in general were of Gow's opinion; but Williams, the lieutenant, said that Gow was a coward, and unworthy to command the vessel. The fact is, that Gow possessed somewhat of calm courage, while Williams's impetuosity was of the most brutal kind. The latter, after behaving in the most abusive manner, demanded that the former should give orders for fighting the vessel; but Gow refusing to comply, the other presented his pistol to shoot him; but it only flashed in the pan.

This being observed by two of the pirates, named Winter and Paterson, they both fired at Williams, when one of them wounded him in the arm, and the other in the belly. He dropped as soon as the pieces were discharged, and the other seamen, thinking he was dead, were about to throw him overboard; when he suddenly sprang
on

on his feet, jumped into the hold, and swore he would set fire to the powder-room; and as his pistol was yet loaded, there was every reason to think he would actually have done so, if he had not been instantly seized, and his hands chained behind him, in which condition he was put among the French prisoners, who were terrified at the sight of him; for the savage ferocity and barbarity of his nature is not to be described: it being a common practice with him to beat the prisoners in the severest manner, for his diversion (as he called it), and then threaten to murder them.

No engagement happened with the French ship, which held on her way; and two days afterwards the pirates took a ship belonging to Bristol, which was laden with salt-fish, and bound from Newfoundland to Oporto. Having taken out the provisions and many of the stores, they compelled two of the crew to sail with them, and then put the French prisoners on board the newly captured vessel, which was just on the point of sailing, when they began to reflect in what manner that execrable villain, Williams, should be disposed of.

At length it was determined to put him on board the Bristol ship, the commander of which was desired to turn him over to the first English man of war he should meet with, that he might experience the justice due to his crimes; and in the mean time to keep him in the strictest confinement.

The cruelty of Williams's disposition has been already mentioned, and the following is a most striking instance of it. Among the arguments used by Gow against engaging the French ship, one was that they had already more prisoners than they had proper accommodation for: on which

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Williams proposed that those in their possession might be brought up singly, their throats cut, and their bodies thrown overboard; but Gow said there had been too much blood spilt already: for this was too horrid a proposal even for pirates to consent to.

The fact is, that Williams would have been hanged at the yard-arm, if an opportunity had not offered of putting him on board the Bristol ship. When he learnt their intention respecting him, he earnestly besought a reconciliation; but this being refused him, and he being brought on deck in irons, he begged to be thrown overboard, as he was certain of an ignominious death on his arrival in England: but even this poor favour was denied him; and his companions only wished him "a good voyage to the gallows."

When the captain of the Bristol ship reached the port of Lisbon he delivered his prisoner on board an English man of war, which conveyed him to England, where he had afterwards the fate of being hanged with his companions, as we shall see in the sequel.

As soon as the Bristol ship had left them, Gow and his crew began to reflect on their situation. They were apprehensive that as soon as intelligence of their proceedings reached Portugal, some ships would be sent in pursuit of them. Hereupon they called a kind of council, in which every one gave his opinion, as dictated by his hope of profit, or by his fears.

Some of them advised going to the coast of Guinea, others to North America, and others again to the West Indies; but Gow proposed to sail to the isles of Orkney, on the north of Scotland, where, he said, they might dispose of their effects, and retire, and live on the produce. To induce

induce his people to comply with this proposal, Gow represented that they were much in want of water, and provisions of every kind; that their danger would be great if they continued longer on the high seas; and above all, that it was highly necessary for them to repair their ship, which they could not do with any degree of safety in a southern port.

He likewise said, that if any ships should be dispatched in quest of them; they would not think of searching for them in a northern latitude, so that their voyage that way would be safe; and if they would follow his directions much booty might be obtained by plundering the houses of the gentlemen residing near the sea-coast. The danger of alarming the country was objected to these proposals: but Gow said that they should be able to dispatch all their business, and sail again before such an event could happen.

Apparently convinced by this reasoning, they steered northward, and entering a bay of one of the Orkney Islands, Gow assembled his crew, and instructed them what tale they should tell to the country people, to prevent suspicion: and it is probable that they might, for the present, have escaped detection, if his instructions had been literally obeyed.

These instructions were to say that they were bound from Cadiz to Stockholm, but contrary winds driving them past the Sound, till it was filled with ice, they were under a necessity of putting in to clean their ship; and that they would pay ready money for such articles as they stood in need of.

It happened that a smuggling-vessel lay at this time in the bay. It belonged to the Isle of Man, and being laden with brandy and wine from France,

France, had come north about, to steer clear of the Custom-House cutters. In their present situation Gow thought it prudent to exchange goods with the commander of the vessel; though, in any other, he would hardly have been so ceremonious. A Swedish vessel entering the bay two days afterwards, Gow likewise exchanged some goods with the captain.

Now it was that the fate of the pirates seemed to be approaching; for such of the men as had been forced into the service began to think how they should effect their escape, and secure themselves, by becoming evidence against their dissolute companions.

When the boat went ashore one evening, a young fellow who had been compelled to take part with the pirates, got away from the rest of the boat's crew, and after laying concealed some time at a farm house, hired a person to shew him the road to Kirkwall, the principal place on the islands, and about twelve miles distant from the bay where the ship lay at anchor. Here he applied to a magistrate, said he had been forced into the service, and begged that he might be entitled to the protection of the law, as the fear of death alone had induced him to be connected with the pirates.

Having given information of what he knew of their irregular proceedings, the sheriff issued his precepts to the constables and other peace-officers to call in the aid of the people, to assist in bringing such villains to justice.

About this juncture ten of Gow's sailors, who had likewise taken an involuntary part with the pirates, seized the long-boat, and having made the main land of Scotland, coasted the country

till they arrived at Edinburgh, where they were imprisoned on suspicion of being pirates.

Notwithstanding these alarming circumstances, Gow was so careless of his own safety, that he did not put immediately to sea, but resolved to plunder the houses of the gentlemen on the coast, to furnish himself with fresh provisions.

In pursuance of this resolution he sent his boatswain and ten armed men to the house of Mr. Honeyman, high-sheriff of the county: and the master being absent, the servants opened the door without suspicion. Nine of the gang went into the house to search for treasure, while the tenth was left to guard the door. The sight of men thus armed occasioned much terror to Mrs. Honeyman and her daughter, who shrieked with dreadful apprehensions for their personal safety; but the pirates, employed in the search of plunder, had no idea of molesting the ladies.

Mrs. Honeyman running to the door, saw the man who stood guard there, whom she asked what could be the meaning of the outrage; to which he calmly replied that they were pirates, and had come thither only to ransack the house. Recollecting that she had a considerable quantity of gold in a bag, she returned and put it in her lap, and ran by the man at the door, who had no idea but that the wish to preserve her life occasioned her haste.

The boatswain missing this part of the expected treasure, declared that he would destroy the family writings: but this being overheard by Miss Honeyman, she threw the writings out of the window, and jumping out after them, escaped unhurt, and carried them off. In the interim the pirates seized the linen, plate, and other valuable articles, and then walked in triumph to their
boat,

boat, compelling one of the servants to play before them on the bagpipes.

On the following day they weighed anchor; but on the evening of the same day came again to an anchor near another island. Here the boatswain and some men were sent on shore in search of plunder, but did not obtain any. However, they met with two women, whom they conveyed to the ship, where they detained them three days, and treated them in so shocking a manner, that one of them expired soon after they had put them on shore.

This atrocious offence was no sooner committed than they sailed to an island called Calf-Sound, with an intention of robbing the house of Mr. Fea, who had been an old school-fellow with Gow. This house was the rather pitched upon, as Gow supposed that Mr. Fea could not have yet heard of the transactions at Mr. Honeyman's; but in this he was mistaken: though Fea could not oppose the pirates on that occasion, on account of the indisposition of his wife.

Mr. Fea's house was situated near the sea-shore; he had only six servants at home when the pirates appeared off the coast; and these were by no means equal to a contest with the plunderers. It may not be improper to remark that the tide runs so high among these islands, and beats with such force against the rocks, that the navigation is frequently attended with great danger.

Gow, who had not boats to assist him in an emergency, and was unskilled in the navigation of those seas, made a blunder in turning into the bay of Calf-Sound; for standing too near the point of a small island called the Calf, the vessel was in the utmost danger of being run on shore. This little island was merely a pasture for sheep

belonging to Mr. Fea, who had at that time six hundred feeding on it.

Gow having cast his anchor too near the shore, so that the wind could not bring him off, sent a boat with a letter to Mr. Fea, requesting that he would lend him another boat, to assist him in heaving off the ship, by carrying out an anchor; and assuring him that he would not do the least injury to any individual.

As Gow's messenger did not see Mr. Fea's boat, the latter gave him an evasive answer, and, on the approach of night, ordered his servants to sink his own boat, and hide the sails and rigging.

While they were obeying this order five of Gow's men came on shore in the boat, and proceeded, doubly armed, towards Fea's house. Hereupon the latter advanced towards them with an assurance of friendship, and begged that they would not enter the house, for that his wife was exceedingly ill; that the idea of their approach had greatly alarmed her, and that the sight of them might probably deprive her of life. The boatswain replied that they had no design to terrify Mrs. Fea, or any other person; but that the most rigorous treatment must be expected, if the use of the boat was denied them.

Mr. Fea represented how dangerous it would be for him to assist them, on account of the reports circulated to their discredit; but he offered to entertain them at an adjacent alehouse, and they accepted the invitation, as they observed that he had no company. While they were drinking, Mr. Fea ordered his servants to destroy their boat, and when they had done so, to call him hastily out of company, and inform him of it.

These orders were exactly complied with; and when he had left the pirates he directed six men,
well

well armed, to station themselves behind a hedge, and if they observed him come alone with the boatswain, instantly to seize him; but if he came with all the five desperadoes, he would walk forward, so as to give them an opportunity of firing without wounding himself.

After giving these orders, Fea returned to the company, whom he invited to his house, on the promise of their behaving peaceably, and said he would make them heartily welcome. They all expressed a readiness to attend him, in the hope of getting the boat: but he told them he would rather have the boatswain's company only, and would afterwards send for his companions.

This being agreed to, the boatswain set forward with two brace of pistols, and walking with Mr. Fea till they came to the hedge where his men were concealed, he then seized him by the collar, while the others took him into custody before he had time to make any defence. The boatswain called aloud for his men; but Mr. Fea, forcing a handkerchief into his mouth, bound him hand and foot, and then left one of his own people to guard him, while himself and the rest went back to the public-house.

There being two doors to the house, they went some to the one, and some to the other, and rushing in at once, they made prisoners of the other four men, before they had time to have recourse to their arms for defence.

The five pirates being thus in custody, were sent to an adjacent village, and separately confined; and in the interim Mr. Fea sent messengers round the island, to acquaint the inhabitants with what had been done; to desire them to haul their boats on the beach, that the pirates should not swim to, and steal them; and to request that no person

person would venture to row within reach of the pirates guns.

On the following day the wind shifted to the north-west, and blew hard, on which the pirates conceived hopes of getting out to sea; but the person employed to cut the cable missing some of his strokes, the ship's way was checked, she turned round, and the cable parting, the vessel was driven on Calf Island.

Reduced to this dilemma, without even a boat to assist in getting off the ship, Gow hung out a white flag, as an intimation that he was willing to treat on friendly terms: but Mr. Fea, having now little doubt of securing the pirates, wrote to Gow, and told him he had been compelled to make prisoners of his men on account of their insolent behaviour. He likewise told him that the whole country was alarmed, and that the most probable chance of securing his own life, would be by surrendering, and becoming an evidence against his accomplices.

Four armed men in an open boat carried this letter to Gow, who sent for answer that he would give goods to the value of a thousand pounds to be assisted in his escape: but if this should be refused, he would set fire to the ship, rather than become a prisoner. He even said that he would trust to the mercy of the waves, if Mr. Fea would indulge him with a boat.

On reading this letter Fea determined to persuade him to submit, and therefore took four men well armed, in a boat, and rowed towards the ship: but he previously placed a man with a flag in his hand at the top of his house, to make such signals as might be proper to prevent his falling a sacrifice to any artifice of the pirates.

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The instructions given to the servant were, that he should wave the flag once if he saw one of the pirates swim towards the shore; but if he beheld four or more of them, he should wave it constantly till his master got out of danger. Mr. Fea rowing forwards, spoke through a trumpet, asking Gow to come on shore, and talk with him, which the latter said he would. Hereupon Fea lay too, in waiting for him; but at this juncture he saw a man swimming from the ship, with a white flag in his hand, on which the man on the house waved his flag; but soon afterwards he was observed to wave it continually, on which Mr. Fea's boat retired, and those in her presently saw five more of the pirates swimming towards them; but they returned to the ship as soon as they saw the others were aware of the artifice.

The first pirate, who carried the white flag, now retired to a corner of the island, and calling to Mr. Fea, told him that "the captain had sent him a bottle of brandy." Fea replied that he hoped to see Gow hanged, and that he was inclined to shoot the messenger for his insolence; on which the fellow decamped with great precipitation.

Soon after this Gow wrote a most humble letter to Mrs. Fea, imploring her interference in his behalf; and though she had determined not to interest herself in his favour, yet he resolved to go on shore; and taking a white flag in his hand, he made signals for a parley; on which Mr. Fea sent some armed men to seize him living or dead.

On their meeting, Gow insisted that one of the men should be left as a hostage; and this circumstance being seen by Mr. Fea, from the windows of his house, he sailed over to the island, where
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he reprimanded his people for delivering the hostage: and likewise told Gow that he was his prisoner. Gow replied, that could not be, since a hostage had been delivered for him.

To this Mr. Fea replied, that he had issued no orders for delivering the hostage, and that the man who had foolishly engaged himself as such, must submit to the consequence; but he advised Gow, for his own sake, to make signals, that the man might obtain his liberty. This Gow refused to do; but Fea made signals which deceived the pirates, two of whom came on shore with the man, and were instantly taken into custody. Gow was now disarmed of his sword, and made prisoner, after begging to be shot with his sword in his possession.

The leader of the gang being thus secured, Mr. Fea had recourse to stratagem to get all the rest into his power. He now compelled Gow to make signals for some of them to come on shore, which they readily did, and were apprehended by men concealed to take them as they arrived.

Fea now insinuated to Gow that he would let him have a boat to escape, if he would send for his carpenter to repair it, and to bring with him two or three hands to assist him: Gow complied; the men came off, and were severally seized, but as there were other people still on board, Mr. Fea had recourse to the following contrivance to get them into his possession. He directed his own servants to provide hammers, nails, &c. and make a pretence of repairing the boat; and, while this was doing, told Gow to send for his men, since he must have possession of the ship before he would deliver up the boat.

The pirates, on receiving their late captain's orders to come on shore, were very doubtful how

to act; but after a short debate, and having no officers to command them, they shared what money they possessed, and coming on shore, were all taken into custody.

Thus by an equal exertion of courage, conduct, and artifice, did Mr. Fea secure these dangerous men, twenty-eight in number, without a single man being killed or wounded: and only with the aid of a few countrymen; a force apparently very insufficient to the accomplishment of such a business.

When all the prisoners were properly secured, Mr. Fea sent an express to Edinburgh, requesting that proper persons might be sent to conduct them to that city. In the interim Mr. Fea took an inventory of all the effects in the ship, to be appropriated as the government might direct.

Six articles, of which the following are a copy, were found on board the ship, in Gow's handwriting. It is conjectured that, while they were entangled among the rocks of the Orkney Islands, these articles were hastily drawn up, and arose from their distressed situation.

I. That every man shall obey his commander, in all respects as if the ship was his own, and as if he received monthly wages.

II. That no man shall give, or dispose of the ship's provisions; but every one shall have an equal share.

III. That no man shall open or declare to any person or persons, who they are, or what designs they are upon; and any persons so offending shall be punished with immediate death.

IV. That no man shall go on shore till the ship is off the ground, and in readiness to put to sea.

V. That every man shall keep his watch night and day, and at the hour of eight in the evening every one shall retire from gaming and drinking, in order to attend his respective station.

VI. Every person who shall offend against any of these articles, shall be punished with death, or in such other manner as the ship's company shall think proper.

The express from Mr. Fea being arrived at Edinburgh, another was forwarded to London, to learn the royal pleasure respecting the disposal of the pirates; and the answer brought was that the Lord Justice Clerk should immediately send them to London, in order to their being tried by a court of admiralty, to be held for that purpose.

When these orders reached Edinburgh, a guard of soldiers marched to fetch them to that city; and, on their arrival, they were put on board the Greyhound frigate, which immediately sailed for the Thames.

On their arrival in the river a detachment of the guards from the Tower attended their landing, and conducted them to the Marshalsea Prison, where they once more saw Lieutenant Williams, who had been conveyed to England by the man of war which received him from the Bristol captain, at Lisbon, as above-mentioned. This Williams, though certain of coming to an ignominious end, took a malignant pleasure in seeing his companions in like circumstances of calamity.

A commission was now made out for their trial; and soon after their commitment they underwent separate examinations before the judge of the Admiralty Court in Doctor's Commons, when five of them, who appeared to be less guilty than the rest, were admitted evidences against their accomplices.

Being

Being removed from the Marshalsea to Newgate, their trials came on at the Old Bailey, when Gow, Williams, and six others were convicted, and received sentence of death: but the rest were acquitted, as it seemed evident that they had been compelled to take part with the pirates.

The behaviour of Gow, from his first commitment, was reserved and morose. He considered himself as an assured victim to the justice of the laws, nor entertained any hope of being admitted an evidence, as Mr. Fea had hinted to him that he might be.

When brought to trial he refused to plead, in consequence of which he was sentenced to be pressed to death in the usual manner. His reason for this refusal was that he had an estate which he wished might descend to a relation, and which would have been the case had he died under the pressure.

But, when the proper officers were about to inflict this punishment, he begged to be taken again to the bar to plead, of which the judge being informed, humanely granted his request; and the consequence was that he was convicted, as above-mentioned, on the same evidence as his accomplices.

While under sentence of death he was visited by some Presbyterian ministers, who laboured to convince him of the atrociousness of his crime; but he seemed deaf to all their admonitions and exhortations.

Williams's depravity of mind exceeds all description. He seemed equally insensible to the hope of happiness, or the fear of torment in a future state. He boasted, to those who visited him, of his constantly advising Gow "to tie the pri-

“soners back to back, and throw them into the “sea,” to prevent their giving evidence against them.

Gow, Williams, and six of their accomplices, were hanged at Execution-Dock, on the 11th of August, 1729.

A remarkable circumstance happened to Gow at the place of execution. His friends, anxious to put him out of his pain, pulled his legs so forcibly that the rope broke, and he dropped down; on which he was again taken up to the gibbet, and when he was dead, was hung in chains on the banks of the Thames.

It is almost impossible to express a sufficient degree of abhorrence of the crimes which these malefactors were guilty of. Robbery, plunder, murder, of the most unprovoked kind!

It is astonishing to think that any men who wilfully depart from the line of virtue, and despise the dictates of religion, can promise themselves any kind of satisfaction. The minds of the guilty must be perpetually haunted with the most dreadful apprehensions! Not a moment's peace can they enjoy, from the rising to the setting of the sun; and even their nights must be disturbed by broken slumbers.

It ought to be mentioned, to the credit of modern times, that the crime of piracy is very uncommon to what it was formerly. Our seamen in general are as honest as they are brave. May they add to their honesty and their bravery a proper regard to the duties of religion; which will assuredly afford them comfort in every climate, and make them equally happy beneath the intense heats of the equinoctial line, and the extremest rigours of the polar circle. They will remember that God
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is ever present, and act as if under the divine influence. Thus may they be always happy, remembering that they are bound to a country where, when the voyage of life is ended, all will be happiness and serenity, and they shall reach that blissful port where storms, and wrecks, and whirlwinds are no more*!

* Those who have read the above narrative with attention will naturally be led to reflect what pains these unhappy men took to prove themselves villains; and how many hundred leagues they failed to render themselves unhappy. Accounts of voyages and travels, if well written, naturally interest the mind beyond any other species of writing. We seem to sail with the navigator, to travel with the traveller: to share in all their hardships, and participate in all their pleasures. The mind is insensibly conducted from one region to another, certain of meeting with satisfaction in all. An excellent periodical work of this kind has lately made its appearance, and is now publishing in weekly numbers, viz.

BALDWIN and MILLAR's *New and Universal SYSTEM of GEOGRAPHY*: being a complete modern history and description of the Whole World. Embellished with the best and most numerous set of whole Sheet Maps, Charts, Plans, and other beautiful and elegant Copper-plates ever published. To accommodate the Public, this work may be purchased by Weekly Numbers, (one or more at a time, price 6d. each,) or persons may be supplied with the Whole together, price unbound in 120 Numbers 3l. or, bound in calf and lettered, 3l. 10s. in one large Folio Volume. In the compilation of this Work, the Authors have been assisted by several gentlemen who have been studious in this agreeable kind of universal knowledge. This work comprizes all the late voyages to the south seas, by Mess. Byron, Wallis, Carteret, Furneaux, Cook, &c. and an accurate description of all the inhabitants of the newly discovered islands. It were superfluous to say, that it contains all the older navigations, from the times of Columbus and Magellan, down to those of Anson: and it would look like flattery to say what, however, may be said with truth, that as it is the last, so it is, indisputably, the most perfect work of the kind. It is adorned with an amazing variety of excellent Copper-plates, Maps, Charts, Plans, &c. engraved by Artists of the First Name; and the Authors return public thanks to all those gentlemen who have contributed in producing so perfect a work.

Singular

Singular Case of JEPHTHAH BIG, who was hanged for sending a letter to extort money.

THIS malefactor was a native of Spitalfields, and having a brother who was coachman to a gentleman of fortune, he conceived an idea of supplying his own extravagancies, by extorting money from his brother's master.

Calling on one Peter Salter, he took him to an obscure public-house near the Minories, where he developed his scheme, saying he might obtain a hundred guineas by sending a threatening letter; but was at a loss to think what house the money should be sent to: but at length he fixed on a public-house, called the Shoulder of Mutton, at Billingsgate, whither he directed Salter to go, and wait till a porter should bring a letter directed to John Harrison, which letter Salter was to carry to Big, at an alehouse on Fish-Street-Hill.

Agreeable to this direction Salter waited at the Shoulder of Mutton till a porter brought a letter, and spoke to the landlord and his son, who seemed surprized at reading the contents. Guilt is ever cowardly; and one of them going out, Salter imagined it was to call an officer to apprehend him; on which he slipped out of the house, and went to his companion on Fish-Street-Hill.

These associates in roguery taking a walk to Moorfields, Big said he was undaunted by this repulse; and that he would write such a letter as would make the gentleman tremble; and he did not doubt of success. In consequence of an agreement between the parties, another letter was sent, ordering the gentleman to send a hundred guineas, enclosed in a parcel, to the Black Boy in Goodman's-Fields, directed to John Harrison.

Salter

Salter went daily, and drank at this house, where he had hitherto been a stranger, in expectation of an answer, which he was to receive, guarding only against any artifice that might be used to apprehend him. While he was thus waiting, he read an advertisement in the news-paper, offering a reward for the incendiary.

At this juncture a porter brought a letter which he gave to the landlord, who having read it, the porter said, “I have a parcel for one Mr. Harrison; do you know such a gentleman?” The landlord enquired if any person present answered to that name; but Salter was too much on his guard to do so; and drinking his beer without any sign of fear, he went to an alehouse near Aldgate, where he met his accomplice, and told him a scheme was laid to apprehend him.

After some conference they adjourned to a public-house near the residence of the gentleman to whom the threatening letters had been sent. Here Big sent for his brother, who attended; but said, as he was obliged to go out with his master he could not stay with them. Big now observed that his brother had complained of the peevish disposition of his master, and asked if he did not intend to leave him. The brother replied that his master had been very fretful for some days past; but added, “I have now found out the reason; for some vile rogue has sent a threatening letter, and swears he will murder him, if a sum of money is not sent to a public-house in Goodman’s Fields.”

When Big’s brother was gone, he told Salter he would send another letter, whatever might be the consequence; but Salter persuaded him not to run the risk of a proceeding which must be followed by certain ruin.

A few

A few days after this the porter who had carried the letter, and seen Salter at both the public-houses, happened to meet him, and suspecting that he might be the incendiary, delivered him to the custody of a peace officer, on which he accused Big as the principal, who was thereupon apprehended and committed to Newgate, and Salter admitted evidence for the Crown.

Big being tried at the Old Bailey, was sentenced to die; but, after conviction, he seemed to be of opinion that he had not been guilty of a capital offence in sending a letter to extort money. He was thought to be a Roman Catholic, since he refused the attendance of the Ordinary while he lay in Newgate.

He was hanged at Tyburn, on the 19th of September, 1729, but was so ill at the place of execution that he could not attend the devotions proper for men in his calamitous situation.

There are few crimes so atrocious as that for which Big suffered. One would imagine that there could not be a wretch existing base enough to enjoy that terror of mind which an honest man must feel on his receiving a threatening letter, which leaves him no alternative but of being stripped of his property, or in hourly danger of being deprived of life.

Our laws can condemn to death: but they cannot inflict a punishment equal to the crime of such a villain; for the man who can wantonly sport with the peace of mind of his fellow-creatures, in the sordid hope of gain, has gone one step in iniquity beyond the power of the law to punish in an adequate degree.

We see, in the history of this offender, that he obtained no advantage from his endeavours to render another unhappy. We see that his con-
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viction and execution speedily followed the apprehension of his accomplice; and that this apprehension arose merely from the suspicion of the porter, who had seen him at the two public-houses where the money intended to be extorted was ordered to be sent.

Hence let those inclined to acts of dishonesty learn that the eye of Providence is ever watchful to bring their evil deeds to light, and punish them in the most exemplary manner. But there ought to be, in every breast, a superior motive of action to that of fear. We ought to love virtue for its own sake; and still more, as it must be acceptable to the great parent of all good; to that God from whom all our blessings are derived; to that source of universal bliss in whom we “live, move, and have our being.” By such a conduct we shall infallibly render ourselves happy in this life; and be successful candidates for happiness in that world where felicity shall never end!

Particulars of the remarkable Case of FRANCIS CHARTERIS, who was Condemned for a *Rape*; but afterwards Pardoned.

THE execrable subject of this narrative was born at Amsfield, in Scotland, where he was heir to an estate which his ancestors had possessed above four hundred years; and he was related to some of the first families in the North, by inter-marriages with the nobility.

Young Charteris having received a liberal education, made choice of the profession of arms

and first served under the Duke of Marlborough as an ensign of foot; but was soon advanced to the rank of cornet of dragoons; but he appears to have had other views than fighting when he embraced the life of a soldier.

Being a most expert gamester, and of a disposition uncommonly avaricious, he made his knowledge of gambling subservient to his love of money; and while the army was in winter quarters he stripped many of the officers of all their property by his skill at cards and dice. But he was as knavish as he was dextrous; and when he had defrauded a brother officer of all his money, he would lend him a sum at the moderate interest of an hundred per cent., and take an assignment of his commission as a security for the payment of the debt.

John, duke of Argyle, and the earl of Stair were at this time young men in the army; and being determined that the inconsiderate officers should not be ruined by the artifices of Charteris, they applied to the earl of Orkney, who was also in the army, then quartered at Brussels, representing the destruction that must ensue to the young gentlemen in the military line, if Charteris was not stopped in his proceedings.

The earl of Orkney, anxious for the credit of the army in general, and his countrymen in particular, represented the state of the case to the duke of Marlborough, who gave orders that Charteris should be put under arrest, and tried by a court-martial. This court was composed of an equal number of English and Scotch officers, that Charteris might have no reason to say that he was treated with partiality.

After a candid hearing of the case, the proofs of Charteris's villainy were so strong, that he was
sen-

sentenced to return the money he had obtained by usurious interest; to be deprived of his commission, and to be drummed out of the regiment, his sword being first broken: which sentence was executed in its fullest extent.

Thus disgraced, Charteris quitted Bruffels, and in the road between that place and Mecklin he threw his breeches into a ditch, and then buttoning his scarlet cloak below his knees, he went into an inn to take up his lodgings for the night.

It is usual in places where armies are quartered for military officers to be treated with all possible respect; and this was the case with Charteris, who had every distinction shewn him that the house could afford, and, after an elegant supper, was left to his repose.

Early in the morning he rang the bell violently, and the landlord coming terrified into his room, he swore furiously that he had been robbed of his breeches, containing a diamond ring, a gold watch, and money to a considerable amount; and having previously broken the window, he intimated that some person must have entered that way, and carried off his property; and he even insinuated that the landlord himself might have been the robber.

It was in vain that the inn-keeper solicited mercy in the most humiliating posture. Charteris threatened that he should be sent to Bruffels, and suffer death, as an accessory to the felony.

Terrified at the thought of approaching disgrace and danger, the landlord of the house sent for some Friars of an adjacent convent, to whom he represented his calamitous situation; and they generously supplied him with a sum sufficient to reimburse Charteris for the loss he pretended to have sustained.

Our unprincipled adventurer now proceeded to Holland, whence he embarked for Scotland; and had not been long in that kingdom before his servile submission, and his money, procured him another commission in a regiment of horse; and he was afterwards advanced to the rank of colonel.

Amidst all his other avocations, the love of money was his ruling passion; for the acquirement whereof there was no crime of which he would not have been guilty.

The duke of Queensbury was at this time commissioner to the parliament of Scotland, which was assembled at Edinburgh, to deliberate on the proposed union with England. Charteris having been invited to a party at cards with the duchess of Queensbury, he contrived that her Grace should be placed in such a manner near a large glass, that he could see all her cards; and he won three thousand pounds of her in consequence of this stratagem. One good consequence, however, arose from this circumstance: the duke of Queensbury, incensed at the imposition, brought a bill into the house, to prohibit gaming for above a certain sum; and this bill passed into a law.

Our adventurer continued his depredations on the thoughtless, till he had acquired considerable sums. When he had stripped young gentlemen of their ready cash at the gaming-tables it was his practice to lend them money at an extravagant interest, for which he took their bonds to confess judgment, and the moment the bonds became due he failed not to take every legal advantage.

By a continued rapacity of this kind, he acquired several considerable estates in Scotland, and then removed to London, which, as it was the feat

seat of greater dissipation, was a place better adapted to the exertion of his abilities.

He now became a great lender of money on mortgages, always receiving a large premium, by which at length he became so rich as to purchase several estates in England, particularly in the county of Lancaster.

Colonel Charteris was as infamous on account of his amours as for the unfeeling avarice of his disposition; his house was no better than a brothel and no woman of modesty would live within his walls. He kept in pay some women of abandoned character, who going to inns where the country waggons put up, used to prevail on harmless young girls to go to the colonel's house as servants; the consequence of which was, that their ruin soon followed, and they were turned out of doors, exposed to all the miseries consequent on poverty and a loss of reputation.

His agents did not confine their operations to inns; but wherever they found a handsome girl they endeavoured to decoy her to the colonel's house; and among the rest, Ann Bond fell a prey to his artifices. This young woman had lived in London; but having quitted her service on account of illness, took lodgings at a private house, where she recovered her health, and was sitting at the door when a woman addressed her, saying she could help her to a place in the family of colonel Harvey: for the character of Charteris was now become so notorious, that his agents did not venture to make use of his name.

Bond being hired, the woman conducted her to the colonel's house, where she was three days before she was acquainted with his real name. Her master gave her money to redeem some cloaths, which she had pledged to support her in
her

her illness ; and would have bought other cloaths for her ; but she refused to accept them.

He now offered her a purse of gold, an annuity for life, and a house, if she would lay with him : but the virtuous girl resisted the temptation, declared she would not be guilty of so base an act ; that she would discharge her duty as a servant, and that her master might dismiss her, if her conduct did not please him.

On the day following this circumstance she heard a gentleman asking for her master by the name of Charteris, which alarmed her fears still more, as she was not unapprized of his general character : wherefore she told the house-keeper that she must quit her service, as she was very ill.

The house-keeper informing the colonel of this circumstance, he sent for the poor girl, and threatened that he would shoot her if she left his service. He likewise ordered the servants to keep the door fast, to prevent her making her escape ; and when he spoke of her it was in the most contemptuous terms.

On the following day he directed his clerk of the kitchen to send her into the parlour, and, on her attending him, he bid her stir the fire. While she was thus employed, he violently seized on, and ravished her, first stopping her mouth with his night-cap ; and afterwards, on her saying that she would prosecute him, he beat her with a horse-whip, and called her by the most opprobrious names.

On his opening the door the clerk of the kitchen appeared, to whom the colonel pretended that she had robbed him of thirty guineas, and directed him to turn her out of the house, which was accordingly done.

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Hereupon she went to a gentlewoman named Parsons, and informing her of what had happened, asked her advice how to proceed. Mrs. Parsons recommended her to exhibit articles against him for the assault; but when the matter came afterwards to be heard by the grand jury, they found it was not an attempt, but an actual commission of the fact; and a bill was found accordingly.

When the colonel was committed to Newgate he was loaded with heavy fetters; but he soon purchased a lighter pair, and paid for the use of a room in the prison, and for a man to attend him.

Colonel Charteris had been married to the daughter of Sir Alexander Swinton of Scotland, who bore him one daughter, who was married to the earl of Wemys; and the earl happening to be in London at the time of the above-mentioned transaction, procured a writ of habeas corpus, in consequence of which, the colonel was admitted to bail.

When the trial came on, every art was used to traduce the character of the prosecutrix, with a view to destroy the force of her evidence; but, happily, her character was so fair, and there was so little reason to think that she had any sinister view in the prosecution, that every artifice failed, and after a long trial, in which the facts were proved to the satisfaction of the jury, a verdict of guilty was given against the colonel, who received sentence to be executed in the accustomed manner.

On this occasion Charteris was not a little obliged to his son-in-law, lord Wemys, who caused the lord president Forbes to come from Scotland, to plead the cause before the privy coun-

council; and an estate of 300l. per annum for life, was assigned to the president for this service.

At length the king consented to grant the colonel a pardon, on his settling a handsome annuity on the prosecutrix.

Colonel Charteris was tried at the Old-Bailey on the 25th of February, 1730.

After his narrow escape from a fate which he had so well deserved, he retired to Edinburgh, where he lived about two years, and then died in a miserable manner; a victim to his own irregular course of life.

He was buried in the family-vault, in the church-yard of the Grey-Friars of Edinburgh; but his vices had rendered him so detestable, that it was with some difficulty that he was committed to the grave; for the mob almost tore the coffin in pieces, and committed a variety of irregularities, in honest contempt of such an abandoned character.

Soon after Carteris was convicted, a fine met-zorinto print of him was published, representing him standing at the bar of the Old-Bailey, with his thumbs tied; and under the print was the following inscription.

Blood!——must a colonel, with a lord's estate,
 Be thus obnoxious to a scoundrel's fate?
 Brought to the bar, and sentenc'd from the bench,
 Only for ravishing a country wench?—
 Shall men of honour meet no more respect?
 Shall their diversions thus by laws be check'd?
 Shall they be accountable to faucy juries
 For this or t'other pleasure?—hell and suries!
 What man thro' villainy would run a course,
 And ruin families without remorse,

To

To heap up riches.—If, when all is done,
An ignominious death he cannot shun?

But the most severe, yet just, character of Charteris, was written by the celebrated Dr. Arbuthnot, and is comprised in the following Epitaph.

HERE lieth the body of Colonel
DON FRANCISCO;

Who with an inflexible constancy,
And inimitable uniformity of life,
Persisted, in spite of age and infirmity,
In the practice of every human vice,
Excepting prodigality and hypocrisy;
His insatiable avarice
Exempting him from the first,
And his matchless impudence
From the latter.

Nor was he more singular
In that undeviating viciousness of life,
Than successful in accumulating wealth;

Having
Without trust of public money, bribe,
Worth, service, trade, or profession,
Acquired, or rather created
A ministerial estate.

Among the singularities of his life and fortune
Be it likewise commemorated,

That he was the only person in his time
Who would cheat without the mask of honesty;

Who would retain his primæval meanness
After being possessed of 10,000 pounds a year;
And who, having done, every day of his life,
Something worthy of a gibbet,
Was once condemned to one
For what he had not done.

Think not, indignant reader
 His life useleſs to mankind;
 PROVIDENCE
 Favoured, or rather connived at,
 His execrable deſigns,
 That he might remain
 To this and future ages,
 A conſpicuous proof and example
 Of how ſmall eſtimation
 Exorbitant wealth is held in the ſight
 Of the ALMIGHTY,
 By his beſtowing it on
 The moſt unworthy
 Of all the deſcendants
 Of Adam.

It is impoſſible to contemplate the character of this wretch, without the higheſt degree of indignation. A gambler, an uſurer, an oppreſſor, a raviſher! who fought to make equally the follies of men, and the perſons of women ſubſervient to his paſſions; to the baſeſt of paſſions; avarice and luſt!

It would be an affront to our readers even to caution them againſt following ſo execrable an example; for ſurely the world will never produce two ſuch characters as that of colonel Charteris; but, in this caſe, honeſt deteſtation may be allowed to take place: and it is ſome proof of virtue to deſpiſe the wicked.



Account of ROBERT HALLAM, who was hanged at *Tyburn* for *Murder.*

ROBERT HALLAM was a native of London, and intended by his parents for a maritime life, in preparation for which they had him instructed in navigation, and then apprenticed him to the captain of a trading vessel. He served his time with fidelity, acquired the character of an able seaman, and afterwards served on board several vessels as a mate, and was held in great reputation.

On his return to London he married a young woman, who being averse to his going again to sea, he purchased two of the Gravesend wherries, and continued to get his living on the Thames nine years.

His family being increased by several children, he took a public-house, which was chiefly attended by his wife, while he still pursued his business as proprietor of the Gravesend-boats.

The taking an alehouse was an unfortunate circumstance for Hallam: for the house being frequented by the lowest of the people, and his wife being addicted to drinking, the place was a perpetual scene of riot and confusion.

Hallam returning from his business one evening, found his wife intoxicated; and being irritated by this circumstance, he expressed his sentiments with great freedom; and she replying with some warmth, he beat her so as to leave evident marks of resentment on her face.

Hallam's son now told his father, that a waterman who lodged in the house frequently slept with his mother; and some person present likewise hinting that this was probable, from some

familiarities they had observed between the woman and the waterman, Hallam charged his wife with being unfaithful to his bed; and she confessed that she had been so; on which he beat her in a more severe manner than before.

Not long after this he came home late at night, and knocked at the door; but no one coming to let him in, he procured a ladder to get in at the window; when his wife appeared, and admitted him. On his asking the reason why she did not sooner open the door, she said she had been asleep, and did not hear him; but she afterwards confessed that she had a man with her, and had let him out at a back window before she opened the door to her husband.

The infidelity of Hallam's wife tempted him to equal indulgence of his irregular passions; he had illicit connections with several women: and, in particular, seduced the wife of a waterman, who broke his heart and died in consequence of the affair.

On a particular night Hallam came home very much in liquor, and went to bed, desiring his wife to undress herself, and come to bed likewise. She sat, partly undressed, on the side of the bed, as if afraid to go in; while he became quite enraged at her paying no regard to what he said. At length she ran down stairs, and he followed her, and locked the street door to prevent her going out. On this she ran up into the dining-room, whither he likewise followed her, and struck her several times. He then went into another room for his cane, and she locked him in.

Enraged at this, he broke open the door, and seizing her in his arms, threw her out of the window, with her head foremost, and her back to the ground, so that on her falling, her back

was

was broken, her skull fractured, and she instantly expired. A person passing just before she fell, heard her cry out “ Murder! for God’s sake! for Christ’s sake! for our family’s sake! for our children’s sake, don’t murder me, don’t throw me out of the window!”

We give the above circumstances as what were sworn on the trial; in consequence of which the jury found Hallam guilty, and he received sentence of death: but the prisoner denied the fact, insisting that she threw herself out of the window before he got into the room: and he persisted in avowing his innocence to the last hour of his life, as we shall see in the sequel.

After sentence of death, he was visited by his father, to whom he solemnly declared that he had not thrown his wife out of the window, though in other respects he confessed that he had treated her with great severity. He made the same solemn declaration to the Ordinary of Newgate, who refused to administer the sacrament to him, because he would not confess the crime of which he had been convicted.*

At his several attendances at the chapel he constantly addressed himself to the people present, and avowed his innocence with the utmost solemnity. This he also did at the place of execution, where he delivered the following as his dying speech.

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* There seems something very preposterous in this conduct of the Ordinary; as if it was a necessary consequence that a man *must* be guilty, *because* he had been convicted. We have had too many instances of innocent people suffering; and surely the rites of the church ought not to be denied to the dying man!

“ Good People,

Custom making it necessary for persons in my deplorable condition, to say something at the place where they are appointed to suffer, that their death may contribute more towards moving others to repentance, and thereby make the greater satisfaction for those crimes, by which they have injur'd society, and offended God. I therefore to comply with it, and fully to unburthen a conscience oppressed with the remembrance of my sins, by an open confession, as I hope I have already atoned for them by a sincere penitence; declare, in the presence of you good people, and of that Almighty Being, before whose judgment seat I am instantly to appear, that I neither threw my deceased wife out of the window, nor was so much as in the room when she threw herself out. I speak this merely out of respect to truth, and with no design to make reflections upon any. The God of verity, who knoweth the secrets of all hearts, and from whom the certainty of nothing can be hidden, knoweth that I was not the immediate instrument of her dreadful end; yet I do acknowledge the justice of his providence, who, for many great sins had appointed me unto this ignominious death, to which as to the judgment of my country, I will willingly submit. And as my sins and transgressions are so great, that they need not be heightened, and so numerous, that they ought not to be multiplied unto the world after my decease, I judge it proper, as a dying man, to inform ye good people, that I have lived till within a year of her decease in the greatest quiet and affection with my wife, but in that interval I confess, there have been many quarrels and much animosity between us: however, as I
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am to die for the consequences of them, I hope you will speak charitably of me after my decease, and not add, as is too often the custom, the imputation of crimes to him, whose guilt has already been too great.

Lastly, I entreat all Christians, that they would not reflect on those poor orphans I leave behind, for my sake, or that of their deceased mother. It will be affliction enough to those unhappy infants, to remember as they grow up, the dreadful end which hath happened unto their parents; I humbly entreat God it may imprint on their hearts a serious apprehension of doing any thing against his laws. As they cannot be thought in any degree answerable for my actions, so I hope my dying desire being added to the dictates of every man's reason, will preserve them from any reproach of this sort.

Finally, I freely and from my heart forgive those who have injured me in any manner whatsoever, especially those who have reflected too severely on me for that for which I die, entreating God also to pardon the intemperance of their tongues, who have sought to add to my sorrows, and to encrease the weight of my afflictions.

For you good people, I humbly beseech your intercession to Almighty God for my departing soul, that the greatness of his mercy may supply the imperfectness of my repentance, and support me under the heavy load of sufferings, and efface the guilt of my crimes, and that the merits of my Saviour's death (in which alone I trust) may bring me to everlasting life.

ROBERT HALLAM."

Hallam was executed at Tyburn, on the 14th of February, 1732.

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It is impossible to form a just conclusion whether this man was innocent or guilty; but there is something in his case which should afford a lesson of caution to juries how they convict on circumstantial evidence.

There is such a similarity between this affair and one of a more recent date, that it may not be improper to recount a short history of the latter.

A few years since an inhabitant of Aldersgate-street was indicted, convicted, and sentenced to death for murdering his wife, by throwing her out of the window. It was proved that the woman had called out almost in the same manner as Mrs. Hallam did: yet the man was afterwards pardoned, from a prevailing opinion that the woman had thrown herself out, in the violence of an uncontrollable passion; and the character of the husband did not suffer in the opinion of any person of candour and humanity.



Account of the Exploits and Adventures of
WILLIAM SHELTON, who was hanged at
Tyburn, for robbing on the Highway.

THIS malefactor was born of respectable parents near Cheshunt in Hertfordshire, and received a liberal education in the learned languages. At a proper age he was apprenticed to an apothecary at Enfield; but his master applied to his father to take him back at the end of two years, as his conduct was so irregular that he did not chuse any further connection with him.

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In consequence hereof he was placed with an apothecary at Stoke Newington; and though he still kept gay company, he served six years with a fair character.

About this time he became violently enamoured of his mistress's sister, who was by no means insensible to his addresses. She lived in the family; but no person suspected their intimacy, till the mistress accidentally heard her sister freely represent to Shelton the disagreeable consequence that must arise from keeping bad company, and late hours.

Shelton's master and his wife both disapproved of the intended match, on account of his keeping too much gay company; and his own parents objected to it from the same reason, wishing him to acquire greater steadiness of mind before he married.

When his seven years were complete, he took leave of the young lady with professions of lasting love; and his father having supplied him with money, he engaged in business, and was for some time greatly successful; but his immoderate attachment to pleasure lost him much of his business, and many of his friends.

He had not been long in trade before he became enamoured of a young lady, daughter of a widow in his neighbourhood, and having made an acquaintance with her unknown to her mother, he conveyed her out of a back window of the house, and married her at the Fleet. So soon had he forgot his vows to the former lady!

The father of the bride having been a citizen of London, her fortune had been deposited in the hands of the chamberlain, who readily paid it to the husband.

Shelton was still in considerable business; but his attachment to company was such that his ex-

pences exceeded his income; so that he grew daily poorer; and his father dying about this time, left all his fortune to his widow, for her life; so that Shelton had nothing to expect till after the death of his mother.

He now made acquaintance with some people of abandoned character, and took to a habit of gaming, by which his circumstances became still more embarrassed, and he was obliged to decline business after he had followed it only two years.

Thus distressed, he entered as surgeon on board a ship bound to Antigua; and was received with such singular tokens of respect by the inhabitants of the island, that he resolved to settle there as a surgeon; and write to England for his wife to come over to him; but an unfortunate circumstance prevented the carrying this scheme into execution.

In the island of Antigua it is customary to exercise the militia weekly, when the officers on duty treat their brethren in rotation, and invite what company they please. Mr. Shelton being invited by Colonel Ker, the latter gave a generous treat, and urged his friends to drink freely. On the approach of night some of them would have gone home; but the colonel prevailed on them to stay till the next day, hinting that it might be dangerous to meet some negroes who had quit-
ted the plantation.

Shelton agreed, among others, to stay; but he had not been long in bed when the liquor he had drunk occasioned the most excruciating pain in his bowels. The next morning he took some medicines to abate the pain, and the end was answered for the present; but he determined to embark for England, as he thought he felt the symptoms of an approaching consumption.

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Hereupon he sailed for his native country, and arrived to the surprize of his friends, who had been taught to expect that he would continue in Antigua. They, however, advised him to settle at Buntingford in Hertfordshire, where there was a vacancy occasioned by the death of an apothecary.

Shelton having enquired into the affair, and finding no prospect worth his notice, his wife's mother persuaded him to take a house at Brassin, a village near Buntingford, intimating that she would live with him, and be at the expence of house-keeping. This proposal was accepted; but when the leases were drawn, the old lady refused to execute them, so that Shelton was obliged to abandon his agreeable prospect, in a way that appeared not very reputable to himself.

Distressed in mind, and not knowing how to support himself, he determined to commence highwayman; and having hired a horse, and furnished himself with pistols, he rode to Finchley Common, but after looking out some hours, and meeting with no booty there, he returned towards London, in his way to which he took about thirty shillings from four ladies whom he stopped in a coach; and he obtained three shillings and sixpence from a gentleman whom he met on the road.

He now put on a mask, and thus disguised, robbed the passengers in three stage-coaches on Epping Forest of their watches and money. Some persons on horseback immediately pursued him, and were very near him at Waltham-Abbey, but taking a different road, he went round by Cheshunt, and escaped to London, where he the next day heard that his pursuers had galloped after him to Enfield.

The watches he sold to a Jew, and having spent the money, he rode out to Hounslow-Heath, where he demanded a gentleman's money; and after some hesitation on the part of the latter, robbed him of thirty-two guineas and some silver. This done, he crossed the Thames to Richmond, where he dined, and afterwards stopped two ladies in a coach on Putney Common, but got no booty from them, as they had just before been robbed by another highwayman.

On the same evening he robbed a quaker of nine pounds, and early on the following morning he stopped the Northampton stage, and robbed the passengers of twenty-seven pounds. The reason for these rapid robberies was, that he had a debt to discharge which he had contracted at the gaming-table; which being done, he appeared among his former companions as before.

Soon after this he rode towards Chiswick, in the hope of meeting a colonel in the army: but as the gentleman knew him, he was apprehensive of being recollected by his voice, though he wore a mask. The colonel seeing a man masked coming forward, produced a pistol, and on the other coming up, fired at him, and grazed the skin of his horse's shoulder. Shelton now fired, and wounded the colonel's horse; on which the colonel discharged his other pistol, but without effect. Hereupon the highwayman demanded his money, which having received, to the amount of about 50*l.* he took a circuit round the country, and came into London at night.

On the week following this robbery he obtained a booty of ten guineas, some silver, and two gold watches, on Finchley Common, but being pursued by some gentlemen on horseback, he concealed himself on Enfield Chace, and having eluded his pursuers, he rode to London, but in
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his way robbed a gentleman and a lady of between thirty and forty shillings, on Muswell-Hill.

On the following evening he took a ride, but did not rob any person; but on his return through Islington, he heard somebody cry out “Stop the highwayman!” on which he rode hastily up a lane, where his horse had nearly stuck fast in a slough; but getting through it, he stopped in a field, and saw his pursuers waiting in expectation of him. He therefore made a circle, and got down Goswell-street, to the end of Old-street, where he again heard the cry of “A highwayman!” on which he rode to Dog-House-Bar, and escaped by the way of Moorfields.

Soon after this he rode to Enfield Chace, and putting on a mask, robbed one of the northern stages, while the driver was watering his horses at a pond. Some men who were playing at skittles seeing this robbery, surrounded his horse; but on his firing a pistol they ran away, and he pursued his journey to London.

Having one day committed a robbery on the Hertford road, he was returning to town, when he overtook two farmers, who had been drinking at an alehouse till they were valiant, and were wishing to meet Dr. Shelton, whom they would certainly take; and they wondered how people could permit him to proceed unmolested. On this Shelton presented his pistol, and they delivered their money with every sign of fear: the money was but trifling, which he returned, laughing at them for their assumed courage.

His next robbery was on Finchley Common, where he took several watches, and sixteen pounds, from the company in the Northampton stage: and the name of Shelton was now become so eminent that many other robbers courted his acquaintance,

tance, among whom were two men who had formed a design of robbing the turnpike-man on Stamford-Hill ; but had not resolution to carry their plan into execution.

This design was no sooner mentioned to Shelton than he agreed to be concerned : whereupon they went on foot from London at ten o'clock at night : but before they reached the spot, Shelton's companions relented, and would go no farther ; on which they came to Town, in their way to which they robbed a gentleman of a few shillings ; but Shelton determined to have no farther connection with these people.

His next robbery was on two gentlemen in a chaise, both of them armed with pistols, in the road from Hounslow, from whom he took 10*l.* and soon after this, being destitute of cash, and determined to make a bold attempt, he robbed several coaches one evening, and acquired a booty of 90*l.* exclusive of rings and watches.

In consequence of these repeated robberies, a proclamation was issued for taking Shelton into custody, in which a minute description was given of his person ; on which he concealed himself some time in Hertfordshire ; but he had not been there long, before a person who recollected him, informed a neighbouring magistrate, on which he was taken into custody, and conveyed to London.

He was tried at the next sessions at the Old-Bailey, for several robberies in Middlesex ; and being convicted, he was sentenced to die.

While in prison he affected great gaiety of disposition, and was fond of entertaining his visitors with the history of his exploits. At times, indeed, he would be more serious ; but he soon recurred to his former volatility.

On the arrival of the warrant for his execution he seemed greatly agitated, and it was remarked that he shed some tears; but having recourse to the bottle, he dissipated those ideas that had given him uneasiness.

He was hanged at Tyburn, on the 9th of October, 1732, having refused to perform the customary devotions at the place of execution.

There have been few robbers whose progress hath been more rapid than that of Shelton. He was successful, if there can be any success in villainy, in almost every project he undertook; yet a very short time brought him to a fatal and ignominious end.

This man abused the advantages of a liberal education, and is therefore less an object of pity than he would otherwise have been. He had an opportunity of living in a genteel and respectable sphere of life; but his fatal attachment to company led him into extravagance that his income could not support.

His fate should be a lesson of warning to people in business, not to neglect their lawful professions, and the true interest of their families, to spend their time in taverns or ale-houses, in company with those who will appear happy with them while they are in prosperity, but will turn their backs on them when the day of adversity shall arrive.

There is no happiness in this world equal to that arising from the conscientious discharge of a man's duty. The first duty of a tradesman, next to that he owes his God, is that due to his family, and the latter is included in the former. Genuine felicity is found only in the domestic life. "In that (says a celebrated writer) lies the TRUE
"because the UNTUMULTUOUS joy."

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Remarkable Transactions and Adventures of JOSEPH POWIS, who was hanged for a *Burglary*.

THIS young fellow was a native of St. Martin in the Fields, and his father dying while he was an infant, his mother married a smith in St. Martin's-lane, who was remarkable for his ingenuity.

The father-in-law going to Harfleur, in Normandy, with many other skilful artists, to be concerned in an iron manufactory, took Powis with him when he was only eight years of age.

They had not been long here before the father-in-law received a letter, advising him of the death of his wife; on which he left the boy to the care of an Englishman, and coming to London, in order to settle his affairs, soon returned to Normandy.

But the scheme in which they had embarked failing, they soon came back to England, and the man marrying a second wife, took a shop in Chancery-lane, London, and sent young Powis to school, where he made such progress, that a little time gave hope of his becoming a good Latin scholar.

But he had not been long at school before his father-in-law took him home, to instruct him in his own business; and hence his misfortunes appear to have arisen; for such was his attachment to literature, that when he was sent of an errand he constantly loitered away his time, reading at the stall of some bookseller.

When he had been about four years with his father, two lads of his acquaintance persuaded him to take a stroll into the country; and they wandered through the villages adjacent to London,

don for about a week, in a condition almost starving; and sometimes begging food to relieve the extremities of hunger: but distress compelled them to return to town.

The father-in-law of Powis received him kindly, forgave his fault, and he continued about a year longer with him; but having read a number of plays, he imbibed such romantic notions as disqualified him for business.

Inspired with an idea of going on the stage, he offered his service to Mr. Rich, late manager of Covent-Garden Theatre; but having repeated some parts of the tragedy of Julius Cæsar, Mr. Rich told him he was disqualified for the stage, and advised him to attend his trade.

Soon after this Powis again quitted his father-in-law, and rambled through the country some days; but returning on a Sunday, in the absence of the family, he broke open a chest, and taking out his best cloaths, again decamped.

Powis's father, finding that nothing had been taken except the boy's cloaths, easily judged who must be the thief; wherefore he went with a constable in search of the youth, whom he took before a magistrate, in the hope of making him sensible of his folly.

The justice threatening to commit him unless he made a proper submission, he promised to go home and do so; but dropping his father-in-law in the street, he went to an acquaintance, to whom he communicated his situation, and asked his advice how to act. His friend advised him to go home and discharge his duty: but this not suiting his inclination, and it being now the time of Bartholomew-Fair, he engaged with one Miller, to act a part in a farce exhibited at Smithfield.

His next adventure was the going to Dorking in Surry, with one Dutton, a strolling player, by whom he was taught to expect great things: but Dutton, having previously affronted the inhabitants, met with no encouragement: on which they proceeded to Horsham in Suffex, where they were equally unsuccessful.

Powis now slept in a hay-loft, near the kitchen of an inn; and being almost starved, he used to get in at the window, and steal victuals, while the family were in bed. He likewise stole a new pair of shoes belonging to the landlord: but the latter soon discovering the thief, took the shoes from him, and gave him an old pair in the stead.

About this time Dutton took Powis's cloaths from him, and gave him others that were little better than rags.

Having left this town they put up at an inn, where the landlord obliged the company to sleep in the hay-loft, admitting none but the manager to come within the house. At night Powis crept into the kitchen, and devoured the remains of a cold pye; and stole a pair of boots and a pair of stockings, with which he retreated to the hay-loft. He continued to steal provisions several nights, till the landlord and Dutton watched, with loaded guns, in expectation of the thief, who, however, came not that night.

Powis having obtained a few halfpence by one of his petty thefts, stole out from the hay-loft to drink at a public-house, but the landlord happening to be there, knew the boots to be his; on which our unfortunate adventurer hastily retreated to his hay-loft, where he expected to lie secure: but the landlord, Dutton, and others following him, seized him, and took him into the kitchen for examination. He readily confessed that he
had

had stolen the victuals, on which he was delivered into the custody of two countrymen, to guard him till the next day, when it was proposed to take him before a magistrate.

The family having retired to bed, Powis pretended to fall fast asleep; on which one of his guard said, "How the poor fellow sleeps, notwithstanding his misfortunes;" to which the other said, "Let me sleep an hour, and then I will watch while you sleep."

In a few minutes both the men were asleep; on which Powis, thinking to escape, attempted to put on the boots; but making some noise, the landlord heard him, and coming down stairs, Powis affected to sleep as before. The landlord awakened the guardians, and bid them take more care of their prisoner; which they promised to do, but soon fell asleep again.

Powis now took the boots in his hand, and getting out of the inn-yard, ran with the utmost expedition till he had got out of the town, and then drawing on the boots, he proceeded on his journey to London. However, he missed his way, and getting on a common, knew not how to proceed: but going into a cow-house, in which was a quantity of flax, he laid down to rest. In the morning the owner of the flax found him, and enquiring what business he had there, Powis said that, being intoxicated, he had lost his way: on which the other directed him into the right road, in which he hastened forward, in the apprehension of being pursued.

Towards evening he arrived near Dorking, but did not enter the town till it was dark; and as he was going through the street he heard a door open; and turning round, a woman who had a candle in her hand called him; and on his de-

manding what she wanted, she said to another woman, "Sure enough it is he."

This woman, who had washed the players linen, said that two men had been in pursuit of him; and that his best way would be to avoid the high-road, and get to London some other way, with all possible expedition.

Powis immediately took this advice, and quitting the turnpike-road, got to a farm-house, where he stole three books and some other trifles, eat some provisions, and then proceeded towards London, stopping at Stockwell, at a house kept by the mother of his father-in-law's wife. All this happened in the night: but knowing the place, he went into the back-yard, and laid down to sleep on some straw.

Observing some thrashers come to work in the morning, he concealed himself under the straw till night, when he crept out, went to a public-house, drank some beer, and returned to his former lodging.

Inspired by the liquor he had drank, he began to sing, which drawing some people round him, they conducted him into the house. His mother-in-law happening to be there on a visit, spoke with great kindness to him, and advised him to remain there till she had communicated the affair to her husband.

In a few days the father-in-law came to him, and expressed his readiness to take him home, if he would but attend his business, and decline his present vagrant course of life. This he readily agreed to, and continued steady during the winter: but, on the approach of summer, he again left his friends, and rambled about near a month, subsisting on the casual bounty of his acquaintance.

Falling into company with Joseph Paterfon, whom he had known among the strolling players, Paterfon engaged him to perform a part in the tragedy of the Earl of Essex, at Windmill-Hill, near Moorfields, which was then the place of resort for the lower class of spouters in and near London.

The part of Lord Burleigh being assigned to Powis, and it being intimated in the printed bills that this part was to be performed by a young gentleman, being his first appearance on the stage, the curiosity of the public was somewhat excited, so that there was a full house. Unfortunately, Lord Burleigh was dressed in the shabbiest manner; and being little better than a compound of rags and dirt, it was with some difficulty the minister of state went through his part, amidst the laughter and ridicule of the spectators.

Returning home through Ludgate-street, after the play, he saw a gentleman who said he had dropped three guineas, but had picked up one of them. Powis happening to find the other two, kept one for himself, and gave the other to the owner, who not knowing that he had retained one, insisted on his drinking a glass of wine, and thanked him for his civility.

Soon afterwards, Powis being stopped one night in Chancery-lane, by a violent shower of rain, climbed over a gate, and got under the shelter of a pent-house belonging to the Six Clerks' Office, where he remained till morning, when the clerks came to their business; and he was then afraid to appear, lest he should be taken for a thief from the shabbiness of his dress.

Leaning against a plaistered wall, part of it broke; but as the place he stood in was very dark, no one observed it, on which he resolved to profit

profit by the accident; in consequence of which he, at night, made the breach wider, and got into the office, whence he stole six guineas, and about fifty shillings in silver.

Having spent this money, he determined to join his old companions on Windmill-Hill, and in his way thither, he observed a fellow pick a countryman's pocket of a bag of money, in Smithfield; and a cry of "Stop thief" being immediately circulated, the pickpocket dropped the bag, which Powis picked up unobserved, and retiring to a public-house, examined the contents of the bag, which he found to amount to above fifty pounds.

Having put the money in his pocket, he threw away the bag, and retired to his lodgings. This money, a greater sum than he had ever before possessed, was soon spent in extravagance, and he was again reduced to great extremities.

Thus distressed, he got into the area of a coffee-house in Chancery-lane, and attempted to force the kitchen-window; but not succeeding, he secreted himself in the coal-cellar till the following evening, when he got into the house, and hid himself in a hole behind the chimney.

When the family were gone to rest he stole some silver spoons, and about three shillings worth of halfpence from the bar; and having now fasted thirty hours, he ate and drank heartily; but hearing a person come down stairs, he pulled off his shoes, and retiring hastily, got into a hole where broken glass was kept; by which his feet were cut in a shocking manner.

It happened to be only the maid-servant, who came down stairs; and going into the kitchen, Powis put on his shoes, and ran through the coffee-room into the street.

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Being again reduced, he broke into the Chancery-Office, where he stole about four pounds ten shillings, which being spent, he looked out for a fresh supply. Going to St. Dunstan's Church, at the time of morning prayers, he hid himself in the gallery till night, and then stole some of the prayer-books, which he proposed to have carried off the next morning, when the appearance of the sexton interrupted him. The sexton, more terrified than the thief, ran to procure the assistance of another man: but in the mean time Powis had so secreted himself that they could not find him after a search of two hours; which they at length gave up, concluding that he had got out through one of the windows. However, he remained in the church all that day, and at the hour of prayer the next morning, went off with as many books as produced him about a guinea.

On the following night he visited an acquaintance in Ram-alley, Fleet-street, where he observed a woman deposit some goods in a room, the door of which she fastened with a padlock. On this he concealed himself in the cellar till towards morning, when he opened the padlock with a crooked nail, and stole two gold rings and a guinea, being baulked in his expectation of a much more valuable prize.

One of the prayer-books which he had stolen from St. Dunstan's Church, he sold to a bookseller in the Strand; and while the lady who had lost it was enquiring at the bookseller's if such a book had fallen into his hands, Powis happened to stop to speak with a gentleman at the door; on which the bookseller said, "There is the man who sold it me;" and the lady replied, "He is a thief, and has stolen it."

The

The bookseller calling Powis into his shop, asked if he had sold him that book, which he acknowledged; and being desired to recollect how he had obtained it, he said he could not; on which the bookseller threatened to have him committed to prison; but the lady now earnestly looking at him, asked if his name was Powis. He said it was; on which she burst into tears, and said, "I am sorry for you, and for your poor father—You are the cause of all his unhappinesses." The bookseller happening likewise to know Powis's father, delivered the book to the lady, and permitted the young thief to depart, on promise to pay for it on the following day; but the day of payment never came.

A few nights after this he climbed up the sign-post belonging to a pastry-cook in Fleet-street, and got in at a chamber-window, whence he descended into the shop, but not finding any money in the till, he stole only two or three old books, and filled his pockets with tarts, with which he decamped.

Calling some days afterwards at the same shop to buy a tart, he found the people of the house entertaining themselves with the idea of the disappointment the thief had met with: and a lady who lodged in the house produced her gold watch, saying she supposed that had been the object of his search.

This circumstance encouraged him to make another attempt; wherefore, on the following night, he again ascended the sign-post, and got in at the window; but hearing a person coming down stairs without shoes, he got back to the sign-post, descended, and ran off. He was instantly pursued, but escaped through the darkness of the night.

Chagrined at his disappointment, he sauntered into the fields, and lay down under a hay-rick. He slumbered a while; but being distressed in mind, he imagined he heard a voice crying "Run, run, fly for your life; for you are pursued, and if you are taken, you will be hanged." He started with wild affright, and large drops of sweat ran down his face, occasioned by the agitation of his mind.

Finding that he had only been disturbed by a dream, he again lay down; but the stings of his conscience again haunting him, he dreamt that a person came to him, saying, "Young man, you must go away from hence; for where I to suffer you to remain here, I should expect a judgment to fall on me; so go away, or I will fetch a constable, who shall oblige you to go." Being again terrified, he walked round the hay-rick, calling out "Who is there?" but receiving no answer, he laid down again, and dreamt that his father-in-law stood by him, and spoke as follows: "O son! will you never take warning till justice overtakes you? The time will come when you will wish, but too late, that you had been warned by me."

Unable now to sleep, through the agonies of his mind, he wandered about till morning, and had formed a resolution of returning to his father-in-law; but as he was going to him, he met an old acquaintance, who paid him a debt of a few shillings; and going to drink with him, Powis soon forgot the virtuous resolutions he had formed.

On parting from this acquaintance he went to the house of another, where he slept five hours, and then, being extremely hungry, went to a

public-house, where he supped, and spent all his money, except eight-pence.

Thus reduced, he resolved to make a fresh attempt on the Chancery-Office, for which purpose he broke through the wall, but found no booty.

In the mean time his father-in-law exerted his utmost endeavours to find him, to consult his safety; and having met with him, told him it would be imprudent for him to stay longer in London, as people began to be suspicious of him: wherefore he advised him to go to Cambridge, and work as a journeyman with a smith of his acquaintance.

Young Powis consenting, the father bought him new cloaths, furnished him with some good books, and gave him money to proceed on his journey. He now left the old gentleman; but soon afterwards meeting with six strolling players, one of whom he had formerly known, they sat down to drinking, which they continued till all Powis's money was spent, and then he sold his new cloaths.

Our young adventurer now became so hardened in guilt, that there appeared no prospect of his reformation. One Sunday morning early, he attempted to break open the house of a baker in Chancery-lane; but the family being alarmed, he was obliged to decamp without his booty, though not without being known. This affair coming to the knowledge of the father, he commissioned some friends to tell the boy, if they should meet him, that he was still ready to receive him with kindness, if he would amend his conduct.

Powis being now very much distressed, applied to his still generous relation, who advised him to

go to the West-Indies, as the most effectual method of being out of danger: and he promised to furnish him with necessaries for the voyage.

Powis accepting the offer, was properly fitted out, and sent on board a ship in the river, where he was confined in the hold to prevent his escaping. In a day or two afterwards he was allowed the liberty of the ship: but most of the seamen now going on shore to take leave of their friends, he resolved to seize the opportunity of making his escape, and of taking something of value with him.

Waiting till it was night, he broke open a chest belonging to a passenger, and having stolen a handsome suit of cloaths, he took the opportunity of the people on watch going to call others to relieve them, and dropping down the side of the ship, got into a boat; but having only a single oar, he was unable to steer her; and after striving a considerable time, he was obliged to let her drive, the consequence of which was that she ran on shore below Woolwich.

Quitting the boat, he set off towards London; but near Deptford he met with two men, who asked him to sell his wig, on which he went into a public-house with them, where they told him that a friend of their's had been robbed of such a wig, and they suspected him to be the robber.

Powis saw through the artifice, and calling the landlord, desired that a constable might be sent for, to take the villains into custody: but the men immediately threw down their reckoning, and ran off in the utmost haste.

Our adventurer proceeding to London, changed his cloaths, and took to his former practice of house-breaking, in which, however, he was remarkably unsuccessful. Strolling one night to

the house, where he had formerly been, at Stockwell, he got in at the window, and stole a bottle of brandy, a great coat, and some other articles; but the family being alarmed, he was pursued and taken

As he was known by the people of the house, they threatened to convey him to the ship; but he expressed so much dread of the consequence, that they conducted him again to the father-in-law, whose humanity once more induced him to receive the returning prodigal with kindness.

Powis now lived regularly at home about nine weeks, when, having received about a guinea as Christmas-box-money, he got into company, and spent the whole, after which he renewed his former practices.

Having concealed himself under some hay in a stable in Chancery-lane, he broke into a boarding-school adjoining to it, whence he stole some books, and a quantity of linen: and soon after this he broke into the house of an attorney, and getting into a garret, struck a light; but some of the family being alarmed, there was an outcry of "Thieves!" A man ascending a ladder, being observed by Powis, he attempted to break through the tiling, but failing in this, the other cried "There is the thief!" Terrified by these words, he got into a gutter, whence he dropped down to a carpenter's yard adjoining; but could get no farther.

While he was in this situation, the carpenter going into the yard with a candle, took him into custody, and lodged him in the Round-house; but on the following day his father-in-law exerted himself so effectually that the offence was forgiven; and he was once more taken home to the house of his ever-indulgent relation.

After

After he had been three months at home, the father-in-law was employed to do some business for Mr. Williams, a Welch gentleman of large fortune, who having brought his lady to London to lay in, she died in child-bed, and it was determined that she should be buried in Wales. Hereupon Powis's father-in-law was sent for to examine all the locks, &c. that the effects might be safe in the absence of Mr. Williams.

Powis being employed as a journeyman in this business, found a box of linen that was too full, on which he took out some articles. In removing the linen, he found a small box remarkably heavy, which, on examination, appeared to contain diamonds, jewels, rings, a gold watch, and other articles, to the amount of more than 200*l.* all which he stole, and put the box in its place. This being done, he called the maid to see that all was safe, and delivered her the key of the larger box.

Powis being possessed of this booty, consulted an acquaintance as to the method of disposing of it; who advised him to melt the gold, and throw the jewels into the Thames. This being agreed to, the acquaintance kept the jewels, and the gold being sold for eleven guineas, Powis had seven of them, which he soon squandered away.

About a fortnight after the effects were stolen, Powis was apprehended on suspicion of the robbery, and committed to Newgate; and being tried at the next sessions, was sentenced to be transported for seven years, the jury having given a verdict that he was guilty of stealing to the value of thirty-nine shillings.

He lay in Newgate a considerable time; till at length his father-in-law, after repeated entreaties, and a promise of a total reformation of manners,
made

made such interest, that he was burnt in the hand, and set at large.

Once more did the father-in-law take this ungracious boy into his house, where he continued about seven months, when meeting with one of his dissolute companions, he spent all his money, and was then afraid to return home.

He now refrained some time from acts of theft, and taking lodgings in an alley in Fleet-street, subsisted by borrowing money of his acquaintance. Soon afterwards, however, he broke open a trunk at his lodgings, and stole some linen, which he pawned for five shillings and six-pence.

On the next day the landlord charged him with the robbery; but not intending to prosecute him, was content with recovering his linen from the pawnbrokers, and took Powis's word for making good the deficient money.

In less than a week after adjusting this affair, our young, but hardened villain, broke open the coffee-house in Chancery-lane, which we have already mentioned, and stole a few articles which produced him about thirty shillings: and soon afterwards he broke into the Chancery-office, where he stole two books, which he sold for half a crown.

On the following evening, he went again to the office, and hid himself under the stair-case; but being heard to cough by a man who had been left to watch, he was taken into custody, and conveyed to a tavern in the neighbourhood; where his father-in-law attended, and pleaded so forcibly in his behalf, that he was permitted to go home with him for the night.

On the following day some gentlemen came to examine him, when he denied the commission of a variety of crimes of which he had been charged;

ed; but the gentlemen having consented to his escape for this time, advised him not to appear again in that neighbourhood, as the masters in chancery had given strict orders for prosecuting him.

After receiving some good advice from his father-in-law, he was recommended to work with a smith in Milford-lane, in the Strand: but Powis had a brother who called upon him a few days afterwards, and told him that a warrant was issued to apprehend him for robbing the Chancery-office; which obliged him to abscond.

Strolling one evening into the Spa-fields near Islington, some constables apprehended him as a vagrant, and lodged him, with several others, in New-Prison; and on the following day most of the prisoners were discharged by a magistrate, and Powis was ordered to be set at liberty; but not having money to pay his fees, he was taken back to the prison, where he remained a few days longer, and was then set at liberty by the charity of a gentleman, who bid him "thank God, and take care never to get into trouble again."

In a short time after his discharge, he broke into the Earl of Peterborough's house at Chelsea, and stole some trifling articles from the kitchen, which he sold for four shillings: and on the following night, he robbed another house in the same neighbourhood of some effects, which he sold for ten shillings.

This trifling sum being soon spent, he broke open a house in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, where he got a considerable sum of money; and to prevent persons who knew him suspecting that he was the thief, he forged a letter, as coming from his grandfather in Yorkshire, purporting that he had sent him such a sum.

In

In a short time afterwards, at a kind of ball given by one of his companions, to celebrate his birth-day, Powis fell in love with a girl who made one of the company, to whom, on the succeeding day, he sent the following ridiculous letter:—

“ Fairest of your sex,

“ Permit me to lay at your feet a heart entirely
 “ devoted to your beauty, and which is incapable
 “ of any other passion than love, unless you by
 “ cruelty cause grief to usurp his throne. But
 “ stay, I am going to dispute of what I have not:
 “ my heart fled from me last night; and has taken
 “ refuge in your breast: I do not envy it, but
 “ would participate with its happiness, which is so
 “ infinite, as were I a king, I would leave my
 “ dignity to enjoy you in a cottage. O! don’t
 “ frown upon me, lest you thereby kill me, who
 “ only desires to live to convince you how he is
 “ your adorer and humble slave,

JOSEPH POWIS.”

The girl paying no attention to this letter, Powis waited on her mother, and, after some conversation with her, was permitted to pay his personal respects to the daughter, to whom he pretended that his grand-father in Yorkshire would leave him a large sum of money; and in proof of what he said he shewed her some counterfeit letters, appearing to have the post-mark on them.

The girl made no objection to him as a husband; but said it would be prudent in him to visit his grandfather, and ask his consent to the match, which would contribute to her peace of mind. On this he left her, and broke open a
 house

house that evening, whence he stole a few things, which he sold for fifteen shillings, and calling on her the next day, took his leave, as if preparing for his journey.

His plan was to commit some robbery, by which he might obtain a considerable sum, and then, concealing himself for some time, return to his mistress, and pretend that his grandfather had given him the money.

Going to see the Beggar's Opera*, he was greatly shocked at the appearance of Macheath on the stage in his fetters, and could not forbear reflecting what might be his own future fate; yet, about a week afterwards, he broke open a cook's shop, and stole some articles, the sale of which produced him a guinea.

On the following day he called at Newgate, and treated the prisoners to the amount of seven shillings, and on his quitting the prison, met two girls whom he knew, and with them he went to Hampstead, where he treated them to the amount of twelve shillings and 6d. so that only eighteen pence remained of his last ill-gotten guinea.

On the following day Powis went to the Black Raven, in Fetter-lane, where he observed the landlord put some gold into a drawer, of which he determined, if possible, to possess himself.

VOL. II. No. 21

I i

About

* It has been matter of great debate whether the representation of the Beggar's Opera on the stage does or does not tend to corrupt the morals of the rising generation. In our humble opinion it does. Macheath is deserving an ignominious fate; yet the poet has so managed that he is reprieved. An evil example is therefore given, and an encouragement is held out to vice.

About midnight he went away, having first stolen the pin that fastened the cellar window.

Returning at two in the morning, he got into the cellar, and attempted to open the door of the tap-room; but failing in this, he was about to return by the way he had entered, when a watchman coming by, and seeing the window open, alarmed the family. Powis now escaped into a carpenter's yard, and hid himself: but the landlord coming down, and several persons attending, he was apprehended; but not till one person had run a sword through his leg, and another had struck him a blow on the head that almost deprived him of his senses: circumstances of severity that could not be justified, as he made no resistance.

The offender was lodged in the Compter for the present, and being removed to Newgate, was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, convicted of the burglary, and received sentence of death: but the jury, considering the cruelty with which he had been treated, recommended him to mercy: however, the royal favour was not extended to him, as he had before been sentenced to transportation.

When brought up to receive sentence, he begged to be represented as an object worthy of the royal favour: but he was told not to expect such indulgence. He likewise wrote to his sweetheart, to exert her influence, which she promised; but could do nothing to serve him.

He was hanged at Tyburn, on the 9th of October, 1732, at the age of 22 years, after admonishing the spectators to take warning by his fatal end, and expressing the utmost detestation of the irregularities of his life.

The





*Sarah Malcolm apprehended for the murder of M.^{rs}
Duncomb &c.*

Valois sc

The case of this malefactor will afford a very striking lesson to youth. In the former part of his life we see the miserable situation of a strolling player; and surely the distresses he encountered will be deemed enough to terrify thoughtless young men, who are fond of what is called spouting, from engaging in this vagrant course of life.

The terrors of Powis's conscience, when he lay down to sleep under the hay-rick, shews that there is no peace to the wicked. One self-approving hour, the consequence of having discharged our duty, must afford more solid satisfaction, than whole months spent in that riot and debauchery which may be purchased with ill-gotten wealth.

Nothing, surely, can be equal to the goodness with which Powis was treated by his father-in-law. His kindness appears to have been almost without example; and what could scarcely have been expected, even from a real parent.

This offender, then, sinned against all advice, all warning, all indulgence: but surely his dreadful fate will have a forcible effect on young people who may read this narrative. We hope it will, in a particular manner, teach them the necessity of duty to their parents; and that the only way to be happy in advanced life, is to be virtuous and religious while they are young.

Particular Account of SARAH MALCOLM, who was hanged for *Murder*, with her Behaviour and Confession at the *Place of Execution*.

THE father of this unhappy woman possessed an estate of about 100*l.* a year in the
 I i 2 county

county of Durham, where she was born in the year 1711.

Being a man much addicted to pleasure and extravagance, the estate became soon mortgaged, except his wife's jointure. He then, in company with his wife and daughter, set out for Dublin, the place of his wife's nativity; where he purchased a place in one of the public offices belonging to that city, the profits of which enabled him to live in credit, and to give his daughter an education superior to that of the common class of people.

Our unfortunate heroine, being naturally of a sprightly disposition, wholly engaged the affections of her parents, with whom she lived on terms of reciprocal esteem.

Some years after, her father having some business of consequence to settle, they came to London; where his wife dying in a short time, he married another; who not being agreeable to the daughter's disposition occasioned a separation between them.

In consequence of the above, Sarah, who was now arrived at woman's estate, was obliged to have recourse to servitude for a subsistence. In this station she lived in many reputable families, with great credit, being much commended for her diligence and sobriety. At last, unfortunately for her, she became a servant at the Black Horse, a public-house near Temple-Bar; where she contracted an acquaintance with one Mary Tracy, a woman of light character, and two young men who were brothers, named Thomas and James Alexander.

From this house she was recommended as a laundress, and to take care of gentlemen's chambers in the Temple; and amongst her employers was a Mr. Kerril, a young gentleman from Ireland. She
offi-

officiated also as a chair-woman to Mrs. Lydia Duncomb, a lady of about eighty years of age, who had chambers also in the Temple, where she kept two servants, Elizabeth Harrison, aged sixty, and Ann Price about seventeen.

This lady being reputed very rich, a scheme was formed by Sarah of robbing her chambers, in order, as it is supposed, by dint of money to gain one of the Alexander's as a husband.

On Saturday the third of February, 1733, Sarah called at Mrs. Duncomb's chambers, where she staid till about eight o'clock in the evening, under a pretence of visiting Mrs. Harrison who was just recovered from a fit of sickness. Mrs. Love, a lady who had engaged to dine with Mrs. Duncomb the next day, being present at the time.

It was generally imagined the true meaning of her visit, was either to secret the key of the door, or to spoil the lock so as to gain an easier admittance to put her diabolical design into execution; as the horrid murders were either committed that night, or early the next morning.

On Sunday, the following day, about nine in the morning, a Mr. Gahagan, who had chambers on the same floor, breakfasted with Mr. Kerril, after which they went to the Commons together: during which time, Mrs. Love (already mentioned) coming to Mrs. Duncomb's chambers, could not gain admittance: after waiting a considerable time she went down stairs, when, meeting with Mrs. Oliphant, she enquired whether she had seen any of Mrs. Duncomb's family; who replying she had not, it made her conclude, that the old maid, Elizabeth Harrison was dead, and that Ann Price was gone to acquaint her sister with the news.

Mrs.

Mrs. Oliphant then went to Mrs. Rhymer (executrix to Mrs. Duncomb) who returned with her to the chambers, but could make no one hear, when seeing Sarah Malcolm at the bishop of Bangor's door, they called to her; and begged she would fetch a smith to force open the door, to which she immediately consented, but returned without one: when Mrs. Love expressing her fears that they were all dead, Mrs. Oliphant proposed getting out of her master's window into the gutter, where, by breaking a pane of glass, she could easily open Mrs. Duncomb's casement; which was accordingly effected. Mrs. Love, Mrs. Rhymer, and herself then went in, and the first object that presented itself in the passage, was the body of Ann Price, laying on her bed, wallowing in blood, with her throat cut from ear to ear.

In the next room lay Elizabeth Harrison, strangled; and in an adjoining room, the poor old lady lay, also strangled on her bed: the box where she kept her money being broke open and stripped of its contents, excepting a few papers only.

The neighbourhood became soon alarmed with the news of these shocking murders. Mr. Gahagan and Mr. Kerril happening to pass at the time, and seeing a croud of people about the chambers, enquired what was the matter. And they were informed of the shocking murders committed on Mrs. Duncomb and her servants.

As they walked on, Mr. Gahagan said to Mr. Kerril,—“Mrs. Duncomb was your “Sarah's acquaintance,” which the latter passed unnoticed. On their arrival at a coffee-house in Covent-Garden, these horrid murders engrossed the conversation of the whole company, who
seemed

seemed to be unanimous in the opinion, that they must have been committed by some laundress, who was well acquainted with the chambers.

From the coffee-house, these gentlemen adjourned to the Horse-shoe and Magpye, in Essex-street; where they continued till about one in the morning; when they both returned to Mr. Kerril's chambers. On their entrance they found Sarah Malcolm, with the door open, lighting a fire. "So Sarah (says Mr. Kerril) are you here at this time of the morning? you knew Mrs. Duncomb, have you heard of any body that is taken up for the murder?" "No," said she, "but a gentleman who had chambers under her, has been absent two or three days, and he is suspected." He replied thus. "Nobody who was acquainted with Mrs. Duncomb shall be in my chambers, till the murderer is discovered; and therefore look up your things and be gone."

In the interim two watchmen were called, who found her turning over some linen in a box. On being asked who it belonged to, she replied it was her own. Mr. Kerril then missing two waistcoats, enquired what she had done with them. She then called him aside, and told him she had pawned them for two guineas at Mr. Williams's in Drury-lane; praying his forgiveness and assuring him that he might depend upon her redeeming them.

Mr. Kerril then informed her that he was not so much displeas'd with her on account of the waistcoats, but suspected her to be concerned in the murders. He then observed a bundle lying on the floor, which she informed him was her gown with some linen tied up in it, which she hoped decency would forbid him opening: which he accordingly declined.

On a stricter search he missed several things belonging to himself, and finding others, not his property, he immediately ordered the watchmen to secure her, giving them a strict charge not to let her escape.

When she was gone, he requested Mr. Gahagan to assist him in a thorough search; and looking into the close-stool, they discovered more linen, and a silver pint tankard, the handle of which was bloody. On calling up the watchmen again, they informed the gentlemen that they had set her at liberty, on her promising to surrender at ten o'clock the next morning. They were ordered immediately to find her again at all events: and, calling to their brother watchman at the gate, they luckily found she had not left the Temple; and in a few minutes she was brought back to the chambers. Upon being shewn the bloody tankard and linen, and asked, who they belonged to, she asserted that they had been left her by her mother; that the blood was in consequence of having cut her finger; and making some other frivolous excuses, she was again ordered into custody of the watchmen till morning.

On searching her in the watch-house, a green silk purse, containing twenty-one counters, was found in her bosom. The next morning, after a full examination, she was committed to Newgate.

On her entering Newgate she saw a room belonging to the debtors, and enquired whether she could not have that room. She was answered by Roger Johnson, a turnkey, that it would cost a guinea; she replied that she could send for a friend, that would raise two or three guineas if necessary. She then went into the tap-room, and talked very freely with the felons. Johnson then took her into a room where there was no other prisoner; and

and on searching her he found a bag concealed under her hair, containing 20 moidores, 18 guineas, 5 broad pieces, (one of which was of twenty-five shillings value, the others twenty-three shillings each,) a half broad piece, five crowns and two or three shillings. On being asked by Johnson where she had the money, she replied, it was some of Mrs. Duncomb's; "but Mr. Johnson," says she, "I'll make you a present of it, if you will but keep it to yourself, and let nobody know any thing of the matter; for the other things against me are nothing but circumstances, and I shall come off well enough; and therefore I only desire you to let me have threepence or six-pence a day till the sessions are over, and then I shall be at liberty to shift for myself." He accordingly took the money, which he sealed up in the bag, and which was produced in Court on her trial.

She also informed Johnson that she had engaged three men, for a trifling sum of money, to swear, that the tankard belonged to her grandmother, adding that was all she wanted, for as to the rest she could do well enough; she said the names of two of the men were Denny and Smith, the other she had forgot; but that she feared they were not to be depended on. She then, (confiding in Johnson,) put a piece of mattrafs in her hair to make it appear in bulk as before, and by that means prevent a discovery.

She afterwards told Johnson, that she was the contriver of the robbery, but two men and a woman were concerned with her; that she watched on the stairs, while they committed the fact; but that she was no ways concerned in the murder.

She also said that one William Gibbs had been with her, by whom she had sent ten guineas to the two Alexanders before-mentioned, who she said were the men that were concerned with her; and she continued to charge them with the guilt even after her condemnation.

Soon after her commitment to Newgate, she declared herself a dead woman, and it being the general opinion that she would destroy herself, she was ordered to be put into one of the cells, and a proper person was appointed as a guard on her.

Being seized with violent fits, a surgeon was sent for, as it was imagined she had taken poison; but he gave it as his opinion, that they arose from the consciousness of her guilt, and the terror of her approaching fate had caused the preternatural hurry of her spirits.

When questions were asked her, she prevaricated so much in her answers, and appeared withal so extremely hardened, that little regard was paid to what she said. She would by no means suffer any of her acquaintance to see her; but the two Alexanders and Mrs. Tracy being taken, she desired to be confronted with them, saying, she should die with pleasure now they were taken.

They were accordingly ordered to be conducted into her presence; when she charged them in the boldest manner with the murder, crying out "Aye, these are the persons that committed the murder." Then turning to Mary Tracy, she said, "You know this to be true; see what you have brought me to; it is through you, and the two Alexanders, that I am brought to this shame, and death must follow; you all declared you would do no murder; but to my great surprize, I found the contrary."

When

When she was requested one day by some gentlemen in the press-yard, to make a full discovery of this bloody transaction; she replied with great warmth, "After I am laid in my grave, it will be found out." They then enquired if she was satisfied in her mind, and was resolved not to make any further confession: she answered, "that as she was not concerned in the murder, she hoped God would accept her life as an atonement for her manifold sins."

When brought to her trial the strongest circumstantial proof appeared against her, from the evidence of Mr. Kerril, Mr. Gahagan, Mrs. Love, Mrs. Oliphant, with the two watchmen, and many other witnesses; so that not a person in the whole Court entertained a doubt of her guilt. When called on for her defence, she spoke to the following purport.

That she freely acknowledged her crimes were deserving of death, but that she was entirely innocent of the murder; that the robbery was contrived by Mary Tracy and herself; that they met at Mr. Kerril's chambers, on the Sunday before the robbery was committed, he being from home when the robbing Mrs. Duncomb was proposed. That she told Tracy she could not do it by herself. "No," says Tracy, "there are the two Alexanders will help us." That the next day she had seventeen pounds sent her from the country, which she deposited in Mr. Kerril's drawers. That they all met the Friday following in Cheapside, when it was agreed to put their scheme in execution on the following night.

That the next evening, between seven and eight, she went to see Elizabeth Harrison, who was ill; with whom she staid a short time, and

then went to meet Mary Tracy and the two Alexanders, who proposed going about the robbery immediately, to which she objected, as being too soon. Mary Tracy persisting, she told her she would go and see, and accordingly went up stairs, and they followed her; that she met the maid on the stairs, with a blue mug, going for milk to make a sack-poffet, who enquired who these people were that followed. She told her, they were going to Mr. Knight's. When gone, she said to Tracy, "Now do you and Tom Alexander go down; I know the door is left a-jar, because the old maid is ill, and can't get up to let the young maid in when she comes back." That James Alexander then went in, and hid himself under the bed; that she going down again, met the maid coming up, who enquired if she had spoke to Mrs. Betty: she answered no, and going down, spoke with Tracy and Alexander: then went to her master's chambers, where staying about a quarter of an hour, she went back, and found Tom Alexander and Tracy sitting on Mrs. Duncomb's stairs. At twelve o'clock they heard Mr. Knight come in and shut his door. It being a very stormy night, there was nobody stirring except the watchmen when they cried the hour.

About two another gentleman came to light his candle with the watchman, upon which she removed farther up stairs. Soon after she heard Mrs. Duncomb's door open; and James Alexander came out, and said "now is the time." Tracy and Tom Alexander then went in, she waiting upon the stairs to watch. Between four and five they returned, one of them called to her softly, "Hip! how shall I shut the door?" She replied, "'tis a spring lock; pull it too, and it will be fast," which they accordingly did.

That

That they then proposed sharing the money upon the stairs, to which she objected; they then went under the arch by Fig-tree-court; and she enquired how much they had got; when they informed her, that in the maid's purse they found fifty guineas and some silver, in the drawers about one hundred pounds, exclusive of the tankard, money in the box, and other valuable things, amounting in the whole to about three hundred pounds.

That they then informed her that they had gagged the old lady and her maids. That she received the tankard, a sum of money, and some linen for her share, they reserving a silver spoon, ring, and the remainder of the money to themselves. That they next advised her to be very cautious to conceal the money under ground and not to appear to possess any: and that they then appointed a meeting at Greenwich which was afterwards forgot.

Her defence being ended, the jury withdrew for about a quarter of an hour, when they returned with a verdict of guilty.

While under sentence of death she seemed to feel all the horrors of guilt, and would frequently fall into violent fits which appeared to be attended with agonies, expressive of the utmost perturbation of mind. In one of these fits the keeper enquiring what was the matter, she replied that she was affected by being informed that she was to be executed amongst all her acquaintance in Fleet-street, the thoughts of which were insupportable. In answer to this the keeper told her, "that
 "could not be the truth; as he made her acquaint-
 "ted with the place where she was to die, on
 "the dead warrant's coming down; therefore
 "it was not probable that it could have such
 "an

“an effect on her at this time.” He then, by the most forcible arguments, recommended her to make a full confession of her guilt, as the only means of quieting her conscience; but to this advice she made no reply.

About ten o'clock the same evening she called to a fellow-prisoner in the opposite cell, who was to die the next day; exhorting him to take comfort, and offering for him her prayers, which he begged her to do, and which she accordingly did for a considerable time. After which, calling to him again, she said, “Your time is short as well as mine, and I wish I was to go with you: as to the ignominy of your fate, let not that trouble you: none but the vulgar will reflect either on your friends or relations; good parents may have unhappy children, and pious children may have unhappy parents; neither are answerable for the other. As to the suddenness of our death, consider we have had time to prepare for it, whereas many die so suddenly, that they have not time to call for mercy.”

The bell-man coming at the usual time, he exhorted her to attend to what he said, which she accordingly did; and then throwing him a shilling, bid him call for a pint of wine.

Notwithstanding this unhappy woman attended prayers very constantly during the time of her being in Newgate, there is great reason to imagine, from many circumstances, that she was brought up in the Roman Catholic religion; which suspicion is confirmed by a letter she received from a priest of that persuasion, a few days before she suffered; though it is certain, from the last actions of her life, that she adhered to no principles of religion whatever.

Her

Her behaviour was far from sincere, and she generally contradicted herself in whatever questions were asked her; so that instead of preparing for that awful state on which she was then entering, she daily added to her other crimes, the sin of hypocrisy.

On the morning of execution, she appeared more composed than she had been for some time past, and seemed to join in prayers with the Ordinary and another clergyman who attended with much sincerity.

When in the cart she wrung her hands and wept most bitterly. The accumulated guilt of the very enormous crimes she had committed, seemed now to press heavily on her, and she appeared almost ready to sink under a load of affliction.

At the place of execution she behaved with the utmost devoutness and resignation to the Divine will; but when the Ordinary in his prayers recommended her soul to God, she fainted, and with much difficulty recovered her senses. On the cart's driving off she turned towards the Temple crying out, "Oh my master! my master! I wish I could see him;" and then, casting her eyes towards heaven, called upon Christ to receive her soul.

She was executed near Fetter-lane, in Fleet-street, on the 7th day of March, 1733.

It is hoped the melancholy fate of this unhappy young woman will serve as a warning to young people in general; and that they may learn this useful lesson, "That in whatever station of life Providence may think fit to place them therewith to be content." Had she followed this excellent precept, she might have lived to have been an ornament to her sex; notwithstanding

ing the low sphere in which she was placed at the time of her committing these most cruel murders.

The natural abilities she possessed, improved by a tolerable education, had formed her for an agreeable member of society; but she, on the contrary, giving loose to her most inordinate desires, fell a victim to the injured laws of her country, which she had violated by the most unheard of crimes, attended with the most aggravating circumstances. The unfortunate method she took to gain one of the Alexanders as a husband, involved them all in irretrievable ruin; as notwithstanding it was by many believed they were innocent of the horrid crimes with which she charged them, no evidence of their guilt appearing; yet it left such a stain in their characters as could never be removed.

Such an abominable instance of cruelty (and that to those of her own sex) we hope will never more stain the annals of history!

Remarkable Narrative of the Life of Captain JOHN PORTEOUS; who was Condemned for *Murder at Edinburgh, and Hanged by the Mob.*

JOHN PORTEOUS was the son of a poor man near Edinburgh, who after giving him a good education, bound him apprentice to a taylor, with whom, after the expiration of his apprenticeship, he worked as a journeyman.

Porteous was soon noticed by several reputable gentlemen, as a young man of good address and fine accomplishments, and one whom they entertained a desire to serve.

It

It happened at this time that a gentleman who had been lord provost of Edinburgh, growing tired of his mistress, wished to disengage himself from her in a genteel manner: and knowing Porteous to be very poor, he proposed his taking her off his hands, by making her his wife.

When the proposition was first made to the lady she rejected it with much disdain, thinking it a great degradation to match with a journeyman taylor: but on the gentleman's promising her a fortune of five hundred pounds, she consented, and they were married accordingly.

Porteous now commenced master, and met with good success for some time, but being much addicted to company, he neglected his business; by which means he lost many of his customers. His wife, in consequence, was obliged to apply to her old friend the provost, to make some other provision for them.

In Edinburgh there are three companies of men, of twenty-five each, who are employed to keep the peace, and take up all offenders, whom they keep in custody till examined by a magistrate. An officer is appointed to each of these companies, whom they stile captain, with a salary of eighty pounds a year and a suit of scarlet uniform, which in that part of the world is reckoned very honourable.

A vacancy happening by the death of one of these captains, the provost immediately appointed his friend Porteous to fill up the place; and the latter being now advanced to honour, forgot all his former politeness for which he was so much esteemed when a tradesman; and assumed all the consequence of a man in authority.

If a riot happened in the city, Porteous was generally made choice of by the magistrates to suppress it, he being a man of resolute spirit, and unacquainted with fear. On these occasions he would generally exceed the bounds of his commission; and would treat the delinquents with the utmost cruelty, by knocking them down with his musquet, and frequently breaking legs and arms.

If sent to quell a disturbance in a house of ill fame, notwithstanding he was a most abandoned debauchee himself, he would take pleasure in exposing the characters of all those he found there, thereby destroying the peace of many families: he would treat the unhappy prostitutes with the greatest inhumanity, and even drag them to a prison, though many of them had been seduced by himself.

Amongst the many instances of cruelty he committed; we shall mention the following, because it procured him the universal hatred of the people in that city:

A vacancy happening in the lectureship of a neighbouring church, two young gentlemen were candidates; and having each an equal number of votes, the dispute was referred to the presbytery; who declared in favour of Mr. Dawson. The other candidate, Mr. Wotherspoon, appealed to the synod, who reversed the order of the presbytery. As the parishioners were much exasperated, and a tumult being apprehended at the church on the day Mr. Wotherspoon was to preach his first sermon, Porteous was ordered there to keep the peace, but finding, on his arrival, Mr. Dawson had got possession of the pulpit, he went up the steps without the least ceremony, seized him by the collar, and dragged him down like a thief.

In

In consequence of the wounds he received at this time, Mr. Dawson died a few weeks after.

Mr. Wotherspoon coming in at the time of the affray, Mr. Dawson's friends were so enraged, that they immediately fell on him, whom they beat in such a terrible manner, that he also died about the same time as Mr. Dawson.

Thus the lives of two amiable young gentlemen were sacrificed to the brutality of this inhuman monster. Many men, women, and children, were also much wounded in the affray; yet this wretch escaped unpunished: no notice being taken of the many instances of his barbarity.

Nothing gave more pleasure to this fellow than his being employed to quell riots, which, to the disgrace of the magistrates, he was too much encouraged in. On these occasions he never wanted an opportunity of exercising his savage disposition.

The condemnation and death of Porteous happened in the following most extraordinary manner:

Smuggling was so much practised in Scotland at that time, that no laws could restrain it. The smugglers assembled in large bodies, so that the revenue-officers could not attack them without endangering their lives.

The most active person in striving to suppress these unlawful practices was Mr. Stark, collector for the county of Fife, who being informed that one Andrew Wilson had a large quantity of contraband goods at his house, persuaded a number of men to accompany him; and they seized the goods, and safely lodged them (as they thought) in the Custom-House: but Wilson being a man of an enterprising spirit, and conceiving himself injured, went in company with one Robertson, and some

more of his gang, to the Custom-House, when breaking open the doors, they recovered their goods, which they brought off in carts, in defiance of all opposition.

Mr. Stark hearing that such a daring insult had been committed, dispatched an account thereof to the barons of the exchequer, who immediately applying to the Lord Justice Clark, his lordship issued his warrant to the sheriff of Fife, commanding him to assemble all the people in his jurisdiction to seize the delinquents, and replace the goods.

In consequence of the above order, many were apprehended, but all discharged again for want of evidence, except Wilson and Robertson, who were both found guilty and sentenced to die.

A custom prevailed in Scotland at that time, of taking the condemned criminals to church every Sunday, under the care of three or four of the city guards. The above two criminals were accordingly taken to one of the churches on the Sunday before they were to suffer; when just getting within the door, Wilson (though handcuffed) assisted in his companion's escape, by seizing hold of one soldier with his teeth, and keeping the others from turning upon him, while he cried out to Robertson to run.

Robertson accordingly took to his heels, and the streets being crowded with people going to church, he passed uninterrupted, and got out at one of the city gates just as they were going to shut it: a custom constantly observed during divine service.

The city being now alarmed, Porteous was immediately dispatched in search of him, but all in vain, Robertson meeting with a friend who knocked off his handcuffs, and procured him a horse; and

and the same evening he got on board a vessel at Dunbar, which landed him safe in Holland.

We are informed that, in the year 1756, he was living, and kept a public-house with great credit, near the bridge at Rotterdam.

On the following Wednesday a temporary gallows was erected in the grass-market, for the execution of Wilson, who was ordered to be conducted there by fifty men, under the command of Porteous.

Porteous being apprehensive an attempt would be made to rescue the prisoner, represented to the provost the necessity there was for soldiers to be drawn up ready to preserve the peace. On which five companies of the Welch fuzileers, commanded by a major, were ordered to be in readiness in the lawn-market, near the place of execution.

No disturbance arising, the prisoner finished his devotions, ascended the ladder, was turned off, and continued hanging the usual time; at the expiration of which, the hangman, going up the ladder to cut him down, a stone struck him on the nose, and caused it to bleed. This stone was immediately followed by many others, at which Porteous was so much exasperated, that he instantly called out to his men, "Fire and be damned;" discharging his own piece at the same time, and shooting a young man, who was apprentice to a confectioner, dead on the spot.

Some of the soldiers more humanely fired over the heads of the people; but unfortunately killed two or three who were looking out at the windows. Others of the soldiers wantonly fired amongst the feet of the mob, by which many were so disabled as to be afterwards obliged to suffer amputation.

Por-

Porteous now endeavoured to draw off his men, as the mob grew exceedingly outrageous, throwing stones, with every thing else they could lay their hands on, and continuing to press on the soldiers; on which Porteous, with two of his men, turned about and fired, killing three more of the people, which amounted to nine in the whole that were left dead upon the spot; and many wounded.

A serjeant was sent by the major of the Welch fuzileers to enquire into the cause of the disturbance, but the mob was so outrageous that he could gain no intelligence. Porteous, being assisted by the Welch fuzileers, at last conducted his men to the guard, when being sent for by the provost, he passed a long examination, and was committed to prison in order to take his trial for murder.

On the 6th of July, 1736, the trial came on before the lords of justiciary, previous to which Porteous made a judicial confession that the people were killed as mentioned in the indictments; but pleaded self-defence. His council then stated the following point of law to be determined by the judges, previous to the jury being charged with the prisoner:

“ Whether a military officer with soldiers under his command, being assaulted by the populace, should fire, or order his men to fire, was not acting consistent with the nature of self-defence, according to the laws of civilized nations?”

The council being ordered to plead to the question by the court, they pronounced, as their opinion, “ That if it was proved that captain Porteous either fired a gun, or caused one or more to be fired, by which any person or persons were or were killed, and if the said firing happened
“ with-

“ without orders from a magistrate properly authorized, then it would be murder in the eye of the law.”

Thus the question being decided against him, and the jury impanelled, forty-four witnesses were examined for and against the prosecution.

The prisoner being now called on for his defence, his council insisted that the magistrates had ordered him to support the execution of Wilson, and repel force by force, being apprehensive of a rescue; that powder and ball had been given them for the said purpose, with orders to load their pieces.

They insisted also, that he only meant to intimidate the people by threats, and actually knocked down one of his own men for presenting his piece; that finding the men would not obey orders, he drew off as many as he could; that he afterwards heard a firing in the rear, contrary to his orders. That in order to know who had fired, he would not suffer their pieces to be cleaned till properly inspected, and that he never attempted to escape; though he had the greatest opportunity, and might have effected it with the utmost ease.

They farther insisted, that admitting some excesses had been committed, it could not amount to murder, as he was in the lawful discharge of his duty, and that it could not be supposed to be done with premeditated malice.

In answer to this the council for the crown argued, that the trust reposed in the prisoner ceased when the execution was over; that he was then no longer an officer employed for that purpose for which the fire-arms had been loaded, and that the reading the riot-act only could justify their
their

their firing, in case a rescue had been actually attempted.

The prisoner's council replied, that the magistrates, whose duty it was to have read the act, had deserted the soldiery, and took refuge in a house for their own security, and that it was hard for men to suffer themselves to be knocked on the head when they had lawful weapons put into their hands to defend themselves.

The charge being delivered to the jury, they retired for a considerable time, when they brought him in guilty, and he received sentence of death.

The king being then at Hanover, and much interest being made to save the prisoner, the queen, by the advice of her council, granted a respite till his majesty's return to England. The respite was only procured one week before his sentence was to be put in execution, of which, when the populace were informed, such a scheme of revenge was meditated as is perhaps unprecedented.

On the seventh of September, between nine and ten in the evening, a large body of men entered the city of Edinburgh, and seized the arms belonging to the guard; they then patrolled the streets, crying out, "All those who dare avenge innocent blood, let them come here." They then shut the gates, and placed guards at each.

The main body of the mob, all disguised, marched in the mean time to the prison; when finding some difficulty in breaking open the door with hammers, they immediately set fire to it; taking great care that the flames should not spread beyond their proper bounds. The outer door was hardly consumed before they rushed in, and ordering the keeper to open the door of the captain's apartment, cried out, "Where is the villain?"

"lain?"

“Iain Porteous?” He replied, “Here I am; “What do you want with me?” To which they answered; that they meant to hang him in the Grass-Market, the place where he had shed so much innocent blood.

His expostulations were all in vain, they seized him by the legs and arms, and dragged him instantly to the place of execution.

On their arrival, they broke open a shop to find a rope suitable to their purpose, which they immediately fixed round his neck, then throwing the other end over a dyer’s pole, hoisted him up; when he, endeavouring to save himself, fixed his hands between the halter and his neck, which being observed by some of the mob, one of them struck him with an axe, which obliging him to quit his hold, they soon put an end to his life.

When they were satisfied he was dead, they immediately dispersed to their several habitations, unmolested themselves, and without molesting any one else.

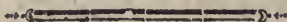
On the news of this extraordinary affair being transmitted to London, a proclamation was issued, with a reward of two hundred pounds to any one who would discover his accomplice; in consequence of which some few were taken into custody, but discharged for want of evidence.

The magistrates of Edinburgh were ordered to London; and they were not only fined, but rendered incapable of acting in a judicial capacity ever after.

Thus ended the life of Captain John Porteous, a man possessed of such great qualifications that, had they been properly applied, would have rendered him an ornament to his country, and made him exceedingly useful in a military capacity.

To his uncommon spirit and invincible courage, was added a nobleness of soul, that would have done honour to the greatest hero of antiquity. But when advanced to power, he became intoxicated with pride, and instead of being the admiration of, he became despised and hated by, his fellow-citizens. The fate of this unhappy man, it is hoped, will be a caution to those in power not to abuse it; but, by an impartial distribution of justice, render themselves worthy members of society.

He was hanged at Edinburgh, September 7th, 1736.



Account of JOHN TOTTERDALE, who was hanged at *Tyburn* for the *Murder* of his Wife.

THIS malefactor, who was a native of North Currey, in Somersetshire, after having been employed in the business of agriculture, came to London about the time that he had arrived at the years of maturity, and lived in several families as a servant, maintaining always a respectable character.

Having saved some money in service, he married, and took a public-house in the parish of St. John, Westminster, where he perpetrated the crime which cost him his life.

Coming home one evening, somewhat intoxicated, he sat down to drink with two women who were in a room with his wife. Mrs. Totterdale quitting the room, her husband soon followed her, with a knife and fork in his hand; soon after
which

which the cry of murder was heard; when Daniel Brown, who lodged in the house, running up stairs, saw Totterdale stamp on his wife two or three times, as she lay on the floor.

On this Brown seized the knife and fork which Totterdale still held in his hand, and having got the woman into another room, she locked it, and he persuaded the husband to go down stairs.

Soon afterwards, Totterdale's passion encreasing, he procured a key, with which he opened the door, when his wife was setting at the foot of a bed, with the curtains drawn to hide her; so that he did not at first observe where she was; on which Brown waved his hand, intimating that she should retire; but she did not, being either afraid, or unable to move; and the husband discovering her, a few words passed between them, when he kicked her, caught hold of her feet, dragged her off the bed, and threw her down about seven of the stairs, where she lay senseless.

Terrified at this sight, Brown ran into his own room, where he staid three or four minutes, and then going down the stairs, found that Totterdale had dragged his wife into a room, and fastened the door: but Brown heard her say, "For Christ's sake
" Johnny!—Johnny, for Christ's sake don't kill
" me!" Mr. Brown then went out, but found the woman dead when he returned, at the end of about an hour and a half.

The husband was now taken into custody, and the body of the deceased being examined by a surgeon, he found that nine of her ribs were broke, and that her right arm was stabbed into the joint to the depth of four inches.

Totterdale being committed to the Gatehouse, was visited by his wife's sister, who said to him,
" O John! John! how could you be so barba-

“ rous as to murder your poor wife ?” In answer to which he said, “ The devil overpowered me—I was pushed on by the devil, both to begin and finish the deed—I cannot recall or undo what I have done; but I wish I could bring back my poor, unhappy, unprepared wife from the grave again.”

Some of his acquaintance asking him why he did not attempt to make his escape after he had committed the murder, he replied that he had an intention of so doing, but as he was going out of the room, he imagined he heard a voice saying, “ John, John, stay—What have you done? You cannot go off:” which supposed words deprived him of all possibility of effecting his escape.

Being brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, the evidence against him was so clear, that the Jury did not hesitate to find him guilty, in consequence of which he was sentenced to die.

After conviction he declared that he had no fear of the disgraceful death that awaited him, and that he would willingly suffer any degree of torture, as an atonement for the crime of which he had been guilty.

On being told that his name was included in the warrant for execution, he replied, “ The Lord’s will be done; I am ready to die, I am willing to die; only I beg of God that I may not (though I deserve it) die an eternal death; and though I am cut off from this world for my heinous offences, yet I hope it is not impossible that I should live for ever in a better state. I have been guilty of the unnatural murder of my poor wife: the Lord be more merciful to me than I was to her, or else I perish.” He added, that he hoped those who had received injuries from him would forgive him;

him; as he freely forgave those by whom he had been injured.

Totterdale found a generous friend in Mr. Paul, a brewer, who had served him with beer while in trade: for when in prison he supplied him with the necessaries of life. He likewise provided for his two children, and took care to see the unhappy man buried by the side of his wife, agreeable to an earnest request he made in a letter written the day before his execution.

The behaviour of this wretched man after conviction, and at the place of his death, was decent, devout, and resigned, in a high degree. He appeared to be a sincere penitent; and admonished others not to indulge that violence of passion which had ended in his destruction.

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 5th of October, 1737.

REFLECTIONS.

There is something very striking in the case of this malefactor. The murder appears to have been unprovoked; and the horrors of his conscience, after committing it, exhibit a dreadful picture of the consequences resulting from so enormous a crime.

We see that the terrors of his mind were such, that words which he could only *suppose* to have heard, were sufficient to nail him to the spot; so that he was utterly unable to effect an escape.

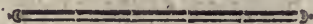
Conscience is a *just*, but a *severe* monitor! When persons are tempted to be guilty of any crime, they should seriously weigh what may be the consequences of it: and this very reflection would prevent the commission of more than half the crimes that are perpetrated. It is want of reflection, and the blind indulgence of passion, that leads us into those errors that always end in remorse, and frequently in destruction.

Totter-

Totterdale appears to have been a sincere penitent for the crime that he had committed; and we ought to hope that he found mercy with the All-Merciful!—But the better way is, never to be guilty of such offences as must burden the conscience to such a degree, as to call for deep repentance!

We have all of us enough to repent of: but we have one plain path before us; one undeviating rule by which we may secure our peace of mind. Let us then remember to “Do justice, love *mercy*,
“ and WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD!”

196



The extraordinary Lives and Transactions of RICHARD COYLE, and JOHN RICHARDSON, who were executed for the *Murder* of Capt. BENJAMIN HARTLEY.

AT a sessions of admiralty held at the Old Bailey, the prisoners were indicted for the murder of Benjamin Hartley, on the high seas, twenty leagues distant from Padras in Turkey, the particulars of which murder will appear in the course of the following narrative.

RICHARD COYLE was a native of Devonshire, and born near Exeter. His parents having given him such an education as was proper to qualify him for a maritime life, he was apprenticed to the master of a trading vessel, and served his time with reputation to himself and satisfaction to his employer.

When his time was expired, he made several voyages in ships of war, and likewise served on board several merchantmen; and he had also been master of a ship for seventeen years, generally sail-
ing

ing from, and returning to the port of London; and during this period he maintained an unexceptionable character: but meeting with some misfortunes, he served as a mate on board other ships, and at length sailed with Captain Hartley in a ship bound to the Levant; and while in this station became acquainted with Richardson, a sharer in his crime.

JOHN RICHARDSON was the son of a goldsmith at New-York, and having been kept to school till he was fourteen years old, was then put under the care of his brother, who was a cooper; but not liking that business, he sailed on board a merchant ship commanded by his name-fake Captain Richardson.

After one voyage, he served five years to a carpenter; but having made an illicit connection with his master's daughter, who became pregnant, he quitted his service, and entered on board a ship bound to Jamaica; but on his arrival there he was impressed, put on board a man of war, and brought to England.

The ship's crew being paid at Chatham, he came to London, took lodgings in Horsly-down, and soon spent all his money. On this he entered as boatswain on board a vessel bound to the Baltic; but being weary of his situation, he soon quitted his station, having first concerted and executed the following scheme of fraud.

Knowing that there was a merchant in the country with whom the captain had dealings, he went to a tavern and wrote a letter, as from the captain, desiring that the merchant would send him an hundred rix dollars. This letter he carried himself, and received the money from the merchant, who said he had more at the captain's service if it was wanted.

Being

Being possessed of this sum, he, the next day, embarked on board a Dutch vessel bound to Amsterdam: and soon after his arrival connected himself with a woman whose husband was sailed as a mate of a Dutch East-India ship. With this woman he cohabited about eight months, when she told him that it would be necessary for him to decamp, as she daily expected her husband to return from his voyage.

Richardson agreed to depart, but first determined to rob her, and having persuaded her to go to the play, he took her to a tavern afterwards, where he plied her with liquor till she was perfectly intoxicated. This being done, he attended her home, and having got her to bed, and found her fast asleep, he took the keys out of her pocket, and unlocking the warehouse, stole India goods to the amount of two hundred pounds, which he conveyed to a lodging he had taken to receive them. He then replaced the keys, but finding some that were smaller, he with those opened her drawers, and took out sixty pounds. Some years after this he saw this woman at Amsterdam, but she made no complaint of the robbery; by which it may reasonably be supposed that she was afraid her husband might suspect her former illicit connection.

Having put his stolen goods on board one of the Rotterdam boats, he sailed for that place, where he found the captain of a vessel bound to New England, with whom he sailed at the expiration of four days.

On their arrival at Boston, Richardson went to settle about fifty miles up the country, in expectation that the property he possessed might procure him a wife of some fortune. Having taken his
lodg-

lodgings at a farmer's, he deposited his goods in a kind of warehouse.

It being now near the Christmas holidays, many of the country people solicited that he would keep the festival with them. His offers were so numerous, that he scarce knew how to determine; but at length accepted the invitation of a Mr. Brown, to which he was influenced by his having three daughters, and four maid-servants, all of them very agreeable young women.

Richardson made presents of India handkerchiefs to all the girls, and so far ingratiated himself into their favour, that in a short time all of them were pregnant. But before this circumstance was discovered, there happened to be a wedding, to which the daughter of a justice of the peace was invited as a bride-maid, and Richardson as a bride-man.

Our adventurer, soon becoming intimate with the young lady, persuaded her to go and see his lodgings and warehouse, and offered to make her a present of any piece of goods which she might deem worth her acceptance. At length she fixed on a piece of chintz, and carried it home with her.

Two days afterwards Richardson wrote to her, and her answer being such as flattered his wishes, he likewise wrote to her father, requesting his permission to pay his addresses to the daughter. The old gentleman readily admitted his visits, and, at the end of three months gave his consent that the young people should be united in wedlock.

There being no licences for marriage in that country, it is the custom to publish the banns three successive Sundays in the church. On the

first day no objection was made; but on the second Sunday all the girls from the house where he had spent his Christmas, made their appearance, to forbid the banns, each of them declaring that she was with child by the intended husband.

Hereupon Richardson slipped out of the church, leaving the people astonished at the singularity of the circumstance: but he had reason to suppose that it would not be long before he should hear from the father of the young lady; whom he had already seduced.

In a few days he received a letter from the old gentleman, begging that he would decline his visits, as his conduct furnished a subject of conversation for the whole country; and with this request Richardson very cheerfully complied: but in about four months he was sent for, when the justice offered him 300*l.* currency, to take his daughter as a wife. He seemed to hesitate at first; but at length consenting, the young lady and he went to a village at the distance of forty miles, where the banns were regularly published, and the marriage took place, before the other parties were apprized of it.

However, in a little time after the wedding, he was arrested by the friends of the girls whom he had debauched, in order to compel him to give security for the maintenance of the future children; on which his father-in-law engaged that he should not abscond, and paid him his wife's fortune.

Having thus possessed himself of the money, and being sick of his new connection, he told his wife and her relations, that not being fond of a country life, he would go to New-York, and build him a ship, and would return at the expiration of three months. The family having no
suf-

suspicion of his intentions, took leave of him with every mark of affection : but he never went near them any more.

Having previously sent his effects to Boston, he went to that place, where he soon spent his money amongst the worst kind of company, and no person being willing to trust him, he was reduced to great distress. It now became necessary that he should work for his bread; and being tolerably well skilled in ship-building, he got employment under a master-builder who was a Quaker, who treated him with the greatest indulgence.

The Quaker was an elderly man, who had a young wife with whom Richardson wished to be better acquainted; on which he one day quitted his work, and went home to the house; but he had but just arrived there when he was followed by the old man, who came in search of him, and found him talking to his wife. The Quaker asked him what business he had there, and why he did not keep at his work. Richardson replied that he only came home for an augur: to which the Quaker said, "Ah! friend John, I do not much like thee: my wife knows nothing of thy tools, and I fear thou hadst some evil thoughts in thy head."

Hereupon Richardson went back to his work, without making any reply, but soon afterwards demanded his wages. The Quaker hesitated to pay him, hinting that he was apprehensive that his wife had paid him already: on which Richardson said he would sue him for the debt, and desired him to consider, that if he made such an excuse in open court, he would be disgraced through the country.

On this the Quaker, paid his demand, but absolutely forbade him ever to come within his

house again; and Richardson promised to obey, and intended to have complied with the injunction.

About eight days afterwards the old gentleman having some business up the country to purchase timber, desired his young wife to accompany him, to prevent any ill consequences that might arise in his absence. To avoid this journey the lady feigned an indisposition, and took to her bed.

The husband had not been long gone before Richardson meeting the maid-servant in the street, asked after the health of her mistress, who, the girl said, wanted to see him: and he promised to wait upon her about nine in the evening.

Punctual to his engagement, he attended the lady, and renewed his visits to her till the return of her husband was apprehended, when he broke open a chest, and stole about seventy pounds, and immediately agreed with captain Jones for his passage to Philadelphia.

When he arrived at the last mentioned place, he took lodgings at the house of a widow who had two daughters; and paying his addresses to the mother, he was so successful, that for four months, while he continued there, he acted as if he had been master of the house.

After his intimacy with the mother had continued some time, he became attached to one of the daughters; and on a Sunday, when the rest of the family was absent, found an opportunity of being alone with her; but the mother returning at this juncture, interrupted their conversation, and expressed her anger in the most violent terms.

Nor was this all; for when she was alone with the offender she severely reproached him; but he made his peace by pretending an uncommon attachment.

tachment to her; yet within a month she found him taking equal freedoms with her other daughter. Incensed at this, she became outrageous, and told him that the consequence of his connection with the other girl was that she was already pregnant. Richardson now quarrelled in his turn, and told her that if her daughter was breeding she must procure her a husband, for he would have nothing to do with her.

At length, when the old woman's passions were in some degree calmed, he represented to her the impossibility of his marrying both her daughters; but said that if she could procure a husband for one of them, he would take the other.

The old lady soon procured a young fellow to marry one of her daughters, and then the mother constantly teased Richardson to wed the other, which he steadily refused to do, unless she would advance him a sum of money. She hesitated for some time; but at length said she would give him a hundred pounds, and half her plate; on which he consented, and the marriage was solemnized: but he had no sooner possessed himself of this little fortune than he embarked on board a ship bound for South Carolina.

Within a month after his arrival in this colony he became acquainted with one captain Roberts, with whom he sailed as mate and carpenter to Jamaica, and during the voyage was treated in the most friendly manner. The business at Jamaica being dispatched, they returned to Carolina.

The owner of the ship living about ten miles up the country, and the winter advancing, the captain fixed on Richardson as a proper person to sleep on board, and take care of the vessel. This
he

he did for some time, till about a week before Christmas, when he was invited to an entertainment to be given on occasion of the birth-day of his owner's only daughter.

A moderate share of skill in singing and dancing recommended Richardson to the notice of the company, and in particular to that of the young lady, by which he hoped to profit on a future occasion.

In the following month it happened that a wedding was to be celebrated at the house of a friend of the owner, on which occasion Richardson was sent for; and when he appeared, the young lady welcomed him, wishing that he would oblige the company with a dance; to which he replied, that he should be happy to oblige the company in general, and her in particular.

Richardson being a partner with the young lady during the dancing at the wedding, begged leave to conduct her home; and when the ceremonies of the wedding were ended, he had the honour to attend her to her abode. When they had got into the midst of a thick wood, he pretended to be ill, and said he must get off his horse, and sit down on the ground. She likewise dismounted, and they walked together under the shade of a chefnut-tree, where they remained till the approach of evening, when he conducted her home, after having received very convincing proofs of her kindness.

Going to his ship for that night, he went to her father's house on the following day, and found an opportunity of speaking to her, when he entreated her to admit of his occasional visits; but she said there were so many negro servants about the house that it would be impossible. On
this

this he said he would conduct her to the ship, when the family were asleep, and the girl foolishly consenting to this proposal, the intrigue was carried on for a fortnight, when she became so apprehensive of a discovery that she would go no longer.

But the lovers being uneasy asunder, they bribed an old female negro, who constantly let Richardson into the young lady's chamber when the rest of the family were retired to rest.

At length the mother discovered that her daughter was with child, and charged her to declare who was the father, on which she confessed that it was Richardson. The mother acquainting her husband with the circumstance, the old gentleman sent for Richardson to supper, and after rallying him on his prowess, told him that he must marry and support his daughter. Richardson said it was out of his power to support her; but the father promising his assistance, the marriage took place.

Soon afterwards the old gentleman gave his son-in-law the ship, and a good cargo, as a marriage portion, and Richardson embarked, on a trading voyage, to Barbadoes: but he had not been many days at sea when a violent storm arose, in which he lost his vessel and cargo, and he and his crew were obliged to take to the boat to save their lives.

After driving some days at sea, they were taken up by a vessel which carried them to St. Kitt's, where Richardson soon met with a captain Jones, who told him that the wife he had married in Pennsylvania had died of a broken heart. This circumstance, added to that of the loss of his ship, drove him distracted; so that he was confined to his chamber for four months.

On his recovery, he went mate with the captain who had carried him to St. Kitt's; but quitting this station in about five months, he sailed to Antigua, where a young gentleman who happened to be in company with Richardson, was so delighted with his skill in dancing a hornpipe, that he invited him to his father's house, where he was entertained for a fortnight with the utmost hospitality.

One day, as he was rambling with the young gentleman, to take a view of some of the plantations, Richardson stopped on a sudden, and putting his hand to his pocket, pretended to have lost his purse, containing twenty pistoles. The young gentleman told him there was more money in Antigua, "True, (said Richardson) but "I am a stranger here; I am a Creolian from "Meovis."—To this the other asked, "Do you "belong to the Richardsons at Meovis? I know "their character well."

Our adventurer knowing that the governor of Meovis was named Richardson, had the confidence to declare that he was his son; on which the other exclaimed, "You his son, and want "money in Antigua! No, no; only draw a bill "upon your father, and I will engage that my "father shall help you to the money."

The project of raising money in this manner delighted Richardson, whom the young gentleman introduced to his father, who was no sooner acquainted with the pretended loss, than he expressed a willingness to supply him with a hundred pistoles, on which he drew a bill on his supposed father for the above-mentioned sum, and received the money.

About a week afterwards he wrote a letter to his imputed father, informing him how generously

nerously he had been treated by his friends in Antigua, and subscribed himself his dutiful son. This letter he entrusted to the care of a person in whom he could confide, with strict orders not to deliver it; and when as much time had elapsed as might warrant the expectation of an answer, he employed the mate of a ship to write a letter to the old gentleman, as from his supposed father, thanking him for his civilities to his son.

The gentleman was greatly pleased at the receipt of this letter, which he said contained more compliments than his conduct had deserved: and he told Richardson that he might have any farther sum of money that he wanted. On this our adventurer, who was determined to take every advantage of the credulity of his new acquaintance, drew another bill for a hundred pistoles, and soon afterwards decamped.

He now embarked on board a vessel bound to Jamaica, and, on his arrival at Port-Royal, purchased a variety of goods of a jew merchant, which, with other goods that the jew gave him credit for, he shipped on board a ship for Carthagena, where he disposed of them; but never went back to discharge his debt to the jew.

From Carthagena he sailed to Vera Cruz, and thence to England, where he took lodgings with one Thomas Ballard, who kept a public-house at Chatham. Now it happened that Ballard had a brother, who, having gone abroad many years before, had never been heard of. Richardson bearing a great resemblance to this brother; the publican conceived a strong idea that he was the same, and asked him if his name was not Ballard. At first he answered in the negative; but finding the warm prepossession of the other, and expect-

ing to make some advantage of his credulity, he at length acknowledged that he was his brother.

Richardson now lived in a sumptuous manner, and without any expence, and Ballard was never more uneasy than when any one doubted of the reality of the relationship : at length Ballard told Richardson that their two sisters were living at Sittingbourne, and persuaded him to go with him on a visit to them. Richardson readily agreed ; but the two sisters had no recollection of the brother ; however, Ballard persuaded them that he was the real brother who had been so long absent ; on which great rejoicings were made on account of his safe arrival in his native country.

After a week of festivity it became necessary for Ballard to return to his business at Chatham : but the sisters, unwilling to part with their newly found brother, persuaded him to remain awhile at Sittingbourne, and told him that their mother who had been extremely fond of him, had left him twenty pounds, and the mare on which she used to ride ; and in a short time he received the legacies.

During his residence with his presumptive sisters, he became acquainted with Anne and Sarah Knolding, and finding that their relations were deceased, and that Anne was left guardian to her sister, he paid his addresses to the former, who was weak enough to trust him with her money, bonds, writings, and the deeds of her estate, Hereupon he immediately went to Chatham where he mortgaged the estate for 300l. and thence went to Gravesend, where he shipped himself on board a vessel bound to Venice.

On his arrival in that place, he hired a house, and lived unemployed till he had spent the greater
part

part of his money, when he sold off his effects, and went to Ancona, where he became acquainted with captain Benjamin Hartley, who had come thither with a lading of pilchards, and on board whose ship was Richard Coyle, the other offender mentioned in this narrative.

Mr. Hartley being in want of a carpenter, Richardson agreed to serve him in that capacity; and the ship sailed on a voyage to Turkey, where the captain took in a lading of corn, and sailed for Leghorn. On the first night of this voyage, Coyle, who was chief mate, came on the deck to Richardson, and asked him if he would be concerned in a secret plot, to murder the captain, and seize the vessel. Richardson at first hesitated; but at length agreed to take his share in the villainy.

The plan being concerted, they went to the captain's cabin about midnight, with an intention of murdering him; but getting from them, he ran up the shrouds, whither he was followed by Richardson, and a seaman named Larson. The captain descended too quick for them, and as soon as he gained the deck, Coyle attempted to shoot him with a blunderbuss, which missing fire, Mr. Hartley wrested it from his hands, and threw it into the sea.

This being done, Coyle and some other of the sailors threw the captain overboard, but as he hung by the ship's side, Coyle gave him several blows which rather stunned him; but as he did not let go his hold, Richardson seized an axe, with which he struck him so forcibly that he dropped into the sea.

Coyle now assumed the command of the ship, and Richardson being appointed mate, they sailed towards the island of Malta, where they intended

tended to have refitted: but some of the crew objecting to the putting in there, they agreed to go to Minorca. When they came opposite Cape Cona on the coast of Barbary, the weather became so foul that they were compelled to lay too for several days, after which they determined to sail for Foviniانو, an island under the dominion of Spain.

When they arrived at this place they sent on shore for water and fresh provisions; but as they had come from Turkey, and could not produce letters of health, it was not possible for them to procure what they wanted.

It had been a practice with the pirates to keep watch alternately, in company with some boys who were on board; but during the night while they lay at anchor off this place, two of the men destined to watch fell asleep; on which two of the boys hauled up a boat, and went on shore, where they informed the governor of what had passed on board.

One of the pirates who should have watched being awaked, he ran and called Richardson, whom he informed that the boys were gone; on which Richardson said it was time for them to be gone likewise; on which they hauled up the long-boat without loss of time, and putting on board her such things as would be immediately necessary, they set sail, in the hope of making their escape.

In the interim the governor sent down a party of soldiers to take care of the ship, and prevent the escape of the pirates; but it being very dark they could not discern the vessel, though she lay very near the shore: but when they heard the motion of the oars, they fired at the pirates, who all escaped unwounded.

Steer-

Steering towards Tunis, they stopped at a small island called Maritime, where they diverted themselves with killing of rabbits: for though the place is apparently little more than a barren rock, yet it so abounds with these animals that a man may easily kill a thousand in a day.

Leaving this place, they stopped twelve miles short of Tunis, where Richardson was apprehended, and carried before the governor, who asking whence he came, he told him that he was master of a vessel which having been lost off the coast of Sardinia, he was necessitated to take to his long-boat, and had been driven thither by distress of weather.

This story being credited, the governor seemed concerned for the fate of him and his companions, and recommended them to the house of an Italian, where they might be accommodated; and in the mean time sent to the English consul to inform him that his countrymen were in distress.

When they had been about a fortnight at this place Richardson sold the long-boat, and having divided the produce among his companions, he went to Tunis, to be examined by the English consul, to whom he told the same story that he had previously told to the governor: on which the consul ordered him to make a formal protest thereof for the benefit of the owners, and their own security.

Hereupon the consul supplied him with money, which he shared with his companions. Coyle kept himself continually drunk with the money he had received, and during his intoxication spoke so freely of their transactions, that he was taken into custody by order of the consul, and sent to England: and Richardson would have been apprehended, but being upon his guard,
and

and learning what had happened to his companion, he embarked on board a ship bound for Tripoly, where he arrived in safety.

At this place he drew a bill on an English merchant at Leghorn, by which he obtained twenty pounds, and then embarked for the island of Malta, he sailed from thence to Saragossa, in the island of Sicily, whence going to Messina, he was known by a gentleman who had lived at Ancona, and remembering his engaging in the service of captain Hartley, had him apprehended on suspicion of the murder.

He remained in prison at Messina nine months; on which he wrote a petition to the king of Naples, setting forth that he had been a servant to his father, and praying the royal orders for his release. In consequence of this petition the governor of Messina was commanded to set him at liberty, on which he travelled to Rome, and thence to Civita Vecchia where he hoped to get employment on board the Pope's galleys, in consequence of his having turned Roman Catholic.

While he was at Civita Vecchia he became known to captain Blomet, who invited him, with other company, on board his ship; and when the company were gone the captain shewed him a letter, in which he was described as one of the murderers of captain Hartley. Richardson denied the charge; but the captain calling down some hands, he was put in irons, and sent to Leghorn, whence he was transmitted to Lisbon, where he remained three months, and being then put on board the packet boat, and brought to Falmouth, he was conveyed to London; and being lodged first in the Marshalsea, was removed to Newgate, and being tried at the Old-Bailey,
received

received sentence of death, as did likewise Coyle, for the murder of captain Hartley.

After conviction Coyle acknowledged the equity of the sentence against him, and in some letters to his friends confessed his penitence for the crime of which he had been guilty, and his readiness to yield his life as an atonement for his offences.

With respect to Richardson, he seemed regardless of the dreadful fate that awaited him; and having lived a life of vice and dissipation, appeared altogether indifferent to the manner in which that life should end.

The above mentioned malefactors were hanged at Execution-dock, on the 25th of January, 1738.

With regard to Coyle we do not hear that he had been guilty of any notorious crime but that for which he suffered; but the life of Richardson was such a continued scene of irregularity, deception, fraud, and vice, as is almost unequalled. His treachery to the many unhappy women of whom he pretended to be enamoured was alone deserving of the fate which finally fell to his lot.

His conduct respecting these should afford a hint of caution to young women to be upon their guard against the insidious artifices of men: while his behaviour from the first embarking into life to his final exit, should teach every one who reads the narrative of his life, that the utmost artifice will fail to supply the place of honesty: and that the man of abandoned principles, while he thinks he is travelling the high road of pleasure, is but seeking the cross-path which leads to destruction.

Nothing

Nothing is so easy, 'so pleasant, so satisfactory as the discharge of our duty: and on the contrary, nothing produces such anxiety, such uneasiness, and perturbation of mind, as a wilful perseverance in the paths of vice. This consideration ought to influence us, if our crimes had reference only to the present state of existence; but when we consider that there is an eternity of happiness or misery to ensue, it is something more than the extravagance of folly, something worse than madness to seek, by our vices, while in this state of probation, to render ourselves unhappy for eternal ages. We should remember that

Just as a tree cut down, that fell
 To north, or southward, there it lies;
 So man departs to heaven or hell,
 Fix'd in the state wherein he dies.

Account of WILLIAM UDALL, who was
 hanged at Tyburn, for a *High-way Robbery*.

THIS offender was a native of the parish of Clerkenwell, where his father carried on a considerable trade as a distiller. Having been liberally educated, he was apprenticed to a watch-maker in Leadenhall-street, where he had served but a short time when he learnt from the journeymen the practice of scraping gold from the insides of watch cases; which he sold, and dissipated the produce in acts of extravagance.

His master dying at the end of four years, and his mistress declining business, he was turned

over

John Maxton warner 1828 aged 17

over to another master, with whom he differed before he had been with him a quarter of a year, and went to live with one Mr. Stanbridge of Clerkenwell, who engaged to procure him his freedom at the expiration of the term for which he was originally apprenticed.

He had not been long in the service of Stanbridge before he connected himself with a number of young pickpockets, with whom he used to go out of an evening, and steal watches, swords, hats, and any thing they could lay their hands on, which they deposited with one Williams, in Hanging-Sword-Alley, Fleet-Street, who disposed of the effects, and shared the booty with the young thieves.

Udall's father was apprized of his living in an irregular manner; but had no idea that he had proceeded to such lengths as to become a robber. However, to reclaim him from his evil courses, he took a house for him, and put him into business in a very reputable way.

One of Udall's companions was a youth named Raby, who having served his time to a barber, his friends likewise put him into business, and for some months the young fellows appeared to attend the duties of their respective professions; but they had not quitted their old connections; for they used to go almost every night to Drury-Lane, to a house of ill-fame, which was kept by a woman named Bird.

In this place they associated with several young fellows of abandoned character, who taught them the arts of gaming; so that in a short time Udall quitted his business, though he had a great prospect of success in trade. Being in possession of a number of watches belonging to his customers, he

fold them to a Jew, and appropriated the produce to the purposes of his own extravagance.

Having dissipated all his money, his associates hinted to him that, as he was acquainted with a number of watch-makers, he might easily take up work in the name of his late master, and sell the articles for his own emolument. He followed this pernicious advice, and was for some time a gainer by the project.

He had likewise another artifice by which he frequently obtained money. He would sell watches which he declared to be worth five or six guineas each; but take only half the money, till the purchasers were convinced of their goodness; and as he knew that these watches would not go well, they were always returned to be rectified; on which he sold them to other people, and the original purchasers were defrauded.

At length Udall and Raby agreed to commence highwaymen, and in consequence thereof committed a number of robberies in and near Epping-Forest, Finchley-Common, &c. one of which was attended with a circumstance of unusual barbarity.

These associates in wickedness having stopped the St. Alban's coach, robbed the passengers of about five pounds, and immediately put spurs to their horses: but they had not rode far before Udall said that a lady in the coach had a remarkably fine ring on her finger. On this Raby rode back, and the lady being unwilling to part with the ring, the remorseless villain drew a knife, and cut off her finger for the sake of the paltry prize.

This horrid action being perpetrated, they rode to Hampstead, and having robbed some other people the same evening, they hastened to Drury-Lane, where they divided the spoil.

These

These companions in vice had another scheme which was frequently successful. When the company was coming out of the theatres, one of them would accost a lady or gentleman, pretending to know the party, and in the interim the other seldom failed of making prize of a watch.

As Udall was walking one evening under the piazza of Covent Garden, he was accosted by an old man of genteel appearance, who enquiring what trade he was, he pretended to be a countryman come to see London; on which the other invited him to a tavern to drink; and Udall gave a hint to his companions to follow him, in expectation of obtaining a booty.

The others waited at the door, while Udall discovered that his new acquaintance was a devotee to the most unnatural of all passions; on which he invited him to take a walk into Lincoln's-Inn-Fields; and when they came to a dead wall the whole gang attacked the old wretch, and then threw him into a ditch*, after having robbed him of a gold watch and twelve guineas: a just, though very inadequate, punishment for the crime of which he would have been guilty.

It was a common practice with Udall to go to the shops of goldsmiths, and under the pretence of buying gold rings, he would steal them, and leave brass rings in the shew-glass; and he was so dextrous in this kind of robbery that he was scarce ever detected.

On one occasion Udall and two of his accomplices, named Baker and Wager, stopped a coach

P p 2

on

*At this period Lincoln's-Inn-Fields was a very ruinous place; but has been brought into its present elegant state in consequence of a subsequent act of parliament.

on the road to Uxbridge. A guard being behind the coach with a blunderbuss, Baker threatened him with instant death if he did not throw it away; and the man obeyed. Wager and Udall guarded the coachman and postilion while Baker robbed the company; but this was no sooner done than the guard produced a horse pistol, with which he fired at Udall, and brought him to the ground; on which Baker shot the guard, so that he instantly expired.

Udall was conveyed to a farm-house near Uxbridge by his accomplices, and lay there six weeks before he recovered; but soon afterwards they killed the person who guarded another coach as it was going over Turnham Green.

In a short time after the commission of this atrocious crime Udall knocked down a young woman in Fenchurch-street, whom he robbed of a cloak, a handkerchief, and her pocket, which contained only a few half-pence.

Udall's father, distressed at his son's proceedings, and wishing to save him from an ignominious fate, procured him to be arrested and lodged in the Compter, hoping that when his companions were disposed of by the operation of the law, he might be out of future danger: but it happened that Ramsfey, one of his old associates, was confined in the same prison at the same time; which coming to the knowledge of Udall's father, he got his son released.

Ramsfey being enlarged soon afterwards, they met at an alehouse, and having resolved to go on the high-way, they went to a livery stable at London-Wall, where they hired horses, and going on the Stratford road, procured a considerable booty in money and watches, from the passengers in several coaches.

Udall

Udall kept company with a woman named Margaret Young, who had likewise lived with several other men. Being one day distressed for cash, he robbed this woman of five gold rings, in consequence of which she had him apprehended by a judge's warrant, and he was lodged in the house of a tipstaff, Mrs. Young swearing that the rings were the property of another man with whom she had cohabited.

During Udall's confinement the supposed owner of the rings offered to decline the prosecution, if he would enter into a bond never again to live with Mrs. Young: but as he rejected this offer, an order was made for his commitment to the King's-Bench: but he and another prisoner effected their escape from the house of the tipstaff, by forcing the keys from the maid-servant.

Not long after this adventure, Udall and some of his associates robbed a physician in the Strand for which they were all of them apprehended; but Udall became an evidence against his accomplices, by which he escaped the fate which he had so frequently merited.

Soon after Udall had thus obtained his liberty; he casually met with Margaret Young, in company with the presumptive owner of the rings above-mentioned, who threatened to arrest Udall for the value of them, unless he would give him a note for four pounds. Udall complying with this demand, and being unable to pay the note when it became due, was arrested, and standing trial, was cast, and ordered to discharge both debt and costs.

Udall's relations, who had been put to great expence on his account, refused to pay this debt, so that he became a prisoner in the Marshalsea; but some of his acquaintance having furnished him

him with saws and ropes, he made his escape, in company with another prisoner, named Man; and while they were escaping a neighbour would have stopped them, but that they threatened his life with the most dreadful imprecations.

After this adventure Udall went to see his relations, and promised them that he would go to Holland, if they would only supply him with money to pay for his passage. This they readily did, and promised to remit him a sum once a year towards his support, on the condition of his continuing abroad: but he had no sooner possessed himself of the present cash, than he went to a house of ill fame in Charter-House-Lane, where he spent the whole money.

Being thus impoverished, he and his fellow-prisoner, Man, agreed to go on the high-way; and the woman of the house having furnished them with pistols, they rode beyond Edmonton, where they robbed four ladies in a coach, and returning to London, spent their ill-gotten gains in Charter-House-Lane.

On the following day they took three gold watches, five pounds, and some silver, from the passengers in a waggon on the Western road, near Brentford; and soon afterwards they robbed two gentlemen near Epping Forest; on their return from which expedition Udall fell from his horse, and was so bruised as to be obliged to keep his bed for several days.

When his health was somewhat re-established, and his money expended, they went again on the road; and having supped at the castle at Holloway, they robbed three gentlemen near Islington, and spent their money at their old place of resort in Charter-House-Lane.

About

About this time information was given to the keeper of the Marshalsea prison of the place of their resort; on which he sent a number of men to take them into custody; but just as they were entering at the door, our adventurers, having notice of their approach, escaped over the roof of the house.

The runners of the prison being disappointed in getting possession of the men, took into custody the mistress of the house and her servant; but these were soon afterwards dismissed, on their engaging to assist in the apprehension of the prison-breakers.

Some days afterwards, when Man and Udall were strolling in the neighbourhood of Islington, in search of prey, they met their old landlady, in company with two of the runners of the Marshalsea; on which the robbers produced pistols, and vowed vengeance against the first person who should molest them. The woman said that they had nothing to fear, for there was no intention of injuring them, and persuaded them to walk in company as far as Pancras, to drink at a public-house.

Having continued drinking some time, one of the men spoke privately to Udall, and made him the offer of his liberty if he would assist in apprehending his companion who had been confined for a large debt.

Udall said he was unwilling that Man should be taken while in his company, lest he should be deemed treacherous to his trust; but he would leave him as soon as they reached London, when the others might take him into custody. This, however, was only a trick of Udall's; for when he got into the fields he privately communicated what had passed to Man, and both of them turning

ing round at the same instant, presented pistols, and threatened immediate destruction to the other parties unless they retired; which they thought it prudent to do for their own security.

The accomplices now committed several robberies in the neighbourhood of Epping-Forest; and Udall having one night left his horse at a public-house on the forest, went to Man's lodgings in an absolute state of intoxication. While he was in this situation Man went out, and locked the door, on the pretence of care that the men from the Marshalsea should not apprehend his companion: but he immediately delivered himself into custody, and gave the key to the runners, who entering the house, seized Udall in bed, and conveyed them both to their former apartments.

Man now seriously reflected on his situation; and being apprehensive that he might be seen by some person who would charge him with a capital offence, he begged to be conducted to a magistrate, before whom he was admitted an evidence against his companion, on a charge of his having committed several robberies on the highway.

Hereupon Udall was committed to Newgate, and being tried at the next sessions at the Old-Bailey, he was convicted, principally on the evidence of Man, and received sentence of death.

After conviction he seemed at once to give up all hopes of life; conscious that his offences were so numerous and so aggravated that he had no reason to expect an extension of the royal mercy in his favour.

He acknowledged that, from the time when he was first apprenticed, he had been a total stranger to common honesty; and that his father had paid and expended above four hundred pounds in fruitless endeavours to save him from ruin.

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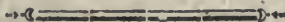
This malefactor was executed at Tyburn, on the 14th of March, 1738, in the 22d year of his age.

REFLECTIONS.

The keeping of bad company appears to have been one great cause of Udall's destruction, as it has been that of thousands besides. There is not a doctrine in the whole system of religion or morality, more worthy of being impressed on the minds of youth than that which inculcates the necessity of keeping good company. The mind is as necessarily influenced by the ideas of those with whom we associate, as a stream of fair water is discoloured by that of a fouler stream running into it.

Hence, then, let young people learn, that on the choice of their company much of their present and future happiness may depend; and that one day spent in the practice of religion and virtue, will afford more solid satisfaction than an age of vice.

It is only by doing our duty that we can expect to be happy; and it is only by a departure from it that we have any reason to dread a continuance of misery, either in this world or the next. God is ever gracious; and those who obey his divine will, need not entertain the least doubt of being sheltered under his Almighty protection.



Account of the Lives of JOHN TOON and EDWARD BLASTOCK, who were Hanged at *Tyburn* for a *Robbery* on the *Highway*.

THE parents of JOHN TOON were respectable inhabitants of Shoreditch, who having bestowed on him a liberal education, apprenticed

him to a capital ironmonger who had married his sister; but not being happy in this situation, his father sent him to sea at the expiration of three years.

After two voyages to Barbadoes, he grew tired of the life of a seaman, which he quitted to live with his uncle, who was a carman, and in whose service he behaved so unexceptionably, that on the death of the uncle, which happened soon afterwards, he took possession of four hundred pounds, which his relation had bequeathed him, as the reward of his good conduct.

Soon after becoming possessed of this money, he married the sister of Edward Blastock, and began to live in a most extravagant manner. When he had dissipated half his little fortune, Blastock proposed that they should go into Yorkshire, and embark in public business.

This proposal being accepted, they took an inn at Sheffield, the place of Blastock's birth; but both the landlords being better calculated to spend than to get money, Toon soon found his circumstances embarrassed.

Thus situated, he reflected on Blastock for advising him to take the inn; and the other recriminated, by recounting the faults of Toon. In consequence of this dissention, Blastock brought his wife to London, whither Toon and his wife soon followed, after selling off their effects.

Toon, who was now totally reduced, met his own elder brother one day in Cheapside. This brother, who was a dyer in Shoreditch, took little notice of the other; but as Toon imagined he was going out for the day, he went to his house, and met with his wife, who entreated him to stay dinner, to which he consented, and in the mean time he went to see the men at work, and finding one

one among them of genteel appearance, whom he learnt was his brother's book-keeper, he became extremely enraged that his brother should employ a stranger in this station in preference to himself, at a time that he was in circumstances of distress.

In this agitation of mind he returned into the house, and whilst his sister-in-law was gone into another room, he stole a small quantity of silver plate, and decamped: and having soon spent the produce of this theft, he determined on the dangerous and fatal resource of the highway.

His first expedition was to Epping Forest, where he waited a long time in expectation of a booty, and at length observing a coach come from Lord Castlemain's seat, he used the most dreadful imprecations to compel the coachman to stop, and robbed two ladies of near three pounds, with a girdle-buckle, and an etwee case.

He now imagined that he had got a valuable prize; but he at length pawned the buckle and etwee for twelve shillings, finding that the latter was base metal, though he had mistaken it for gold; and the former was set with chrystal stones instead of diamonds, as they had appeared to his eye.

He soon spent his ill-gotten treasure, and going again on the high-way, stopped and robbed several persons, among whom was a gentleman named Currier, who earnestly exhorted him to decline his present course of life, not only from the immorality, but the danger of it. The robber thanked the gentleman for his advice, but said that he had no occasion for it, as he was sufficiently apprized of his danger, but he must have his money, on pain of instant death; and having robbed him of three guineas, he decamped with the utmost expedition.

One of his next robberies was on Epping Forest, where he dispossessed a gentleman of his money and a gold watch, which he left in the hands of a receiver of stolen goods, to dispose of to the best advantage: but the watch being of value, and in high estimation with the owner, he advertised it, with a reward of eight guineas; on which the receiver delivered it, and took the money, but gave Toon only seven of them, pretending that was all he could obtain.

Toon, not having read the advertisement, was ignorant of the trick that had been put upon him; but being some days afterwards upon Epping-Forest, and having in vain waited some time for a booty, he went to the Green Man by Lord Castle-main's house, where he heard one of his lordship's footmen recounting the particulars of the robbery, and saying that the watch had been recovered on giving eight guineas for it.

This circumstance determined Toon never to lodge any of his future booties in the hands of this man. But it will now be proper to say something of the other malefactor, whose story makes a part of this narrative.

EDWARD BLASTOCK was a native of Sheffield, in Yorkshire, and having been well educated, was apprenticed in London, to a peruke-maker in the Temple: and his master dying when he had served about five years, his mistress declined trade, and gave the young fellow his indentures, on the representation of the gentlemen of the law, that they wished him, rather than any other, to succeed her late husband.

But the rent of the house being high, Blastock was afraid to enter on business so early in life, as he was at that time only eighteen years of age: on which he took two rooms in White-Friars, where

where he began to practise in his profession, and met with great success.

Coming by this means into the possession of money before he knew the value of it, he attached himself to the fashionable pleasures of the town, by which he soon incurred more debts than he could discharge; so that he was obliged to decline business, and have recourse to the profession of a strolling player; refusing to accept of a valuable place which was offered him by a gentleman of the Temple.

Soon afterwards Blastock married, had several children, and being reduced to great distress, went into Yorkshire with Toon, as hath been already mentioned.

On his return from Yorkshire he again engaged in the profession of a strolling player, and, after some time, casually meeting with Toon, the latter represented the advantages to be made by the life of a highwayman, and wished him to embark in that business; which he declined on the double score of its danger and immorality.

Not long after this refusal Blastock was seized with an indisposition, which threatened his life, and confined him so long that his wife was obliged to pawn almost all her effects for his support; and being visited by Toon during this illness, the latter represented to him how easy it was to obtain a genteel support, by having recourse to the highway.

Blastock had no sooner recovered his health, than, depressed by want, he yielded to the dangerous solicitation, and went with his accomplice to Epping-Forest, where they stopped the chariot of a gentleman, whom they robbed of a few shillings and a pocket-piece, and then came to London.

On the following day they went again towards the forest; but, in crossing Hackney-Marsh, Toon's horse sunk in a slough, where he continued for so long a time that they found it impossible to achieve any profitable adventure for that night.

Thus disappointed, they returned to London, and on the 27th of February following set out on another expedition, which proved to be their last of the kind. While Toon was loading his pistols he was prepossessed with the idea that his fate was speedily approaching; nevertheless he resolved to run every hazard: on which they rode as far as Muswell-Hill, where they stopped a gentleman named Seabroke, and demanded his money.

The gentleman gave them eighteen shillings, saying it was all he had, and adding, "God bless you, gentlemen, you are welcome to it." Toon then demanded his watch, which Mr. Seabroke delivered, expressing himself again in the same words.

This robbery being committed, they galloped hard towards Highgate, and their horses being almost tired, Blastock, stung with the guilt of his conscience, looked frequently behind him, in apprehension that he was pursued; and so strong was this terror of his mind, that both of them agreed to quit their horses, and make their escape.

They now ran through a farm-yard, and taking the back road which leads from Highgate to Hampstead, they got to London on foot; and Blastock now declared his determination never to embark in such another project, while he congratulated himself on his narrow escape.

They now took a solemn oath that, if either of them should be apprehended, neither would impeach the other; and the watch obtained in the
last

last robbery being sold for two guineas, Blastock received his share, and went to join a company of strolling players at Chatham.

The stolen watch being advertised, the purchaser carried it to Mr. Seabroke, telling him that he knew Toon, and would assist in taking him into custody; the consequence of which was, that the offender was lodged in Newgate on the same day.

Toon kept his oath in declining to give any information against his accomplice; but Blastock having agreed to go with the players to a greater distance from London than Chatham, returned to town to bid his wife and children adieu.

When he arrived, which was about midnight, his wife and her sister were in bed; and the former having opened the door, he was informed that Toon was in custody, and advised to seek his safety by an immediate flight.

This advice, however, he did not take; and in the morning, Toon's wife desired he would stay while she visited her husband, declaring that she would not mention his having returned to London.

On her return from this visit, she wept much, and expressed her wishes for the approach of night, that he might retire in safety. In the evening, while supper was providing, she went out, under pretence of a visit to her husband, but instead thereof, she went to Toon's brother, who taking her before a magistrate, some peace-officers were sent to take Blastock into custody.

Mrs. Toon directed the officers to the room where Blastock was, in company with two men of his acquaintance, who were advising him on the emergency of his affairs. Blastock suspecting some

some foul play, concealed himself in a closet; and when the officers came in, they first seized one, and then the other of the persons present; but were soon convinced that neither of them was the party they were in search of.

On this the officers made a stricter search, and finding Blastock in the closet, took him into custody. Having taken leave of his wife and children, they carried him before a magistrate, who asked him if he had not a worse coat than that which he then wore. Blastock owned that he had, and actually sent for it; and it was kept to be produced in evidence against him.

While the officers were conveying him to Newgate, in a coach, they told him that Mrs. Toon had given the information against him; at which he was so shocked, that it was some time before he could recover his recollection, being absolutely insensible when he was lodged in prison.

These malefactors being tried at the next Sessions at the Old Bailey, were capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; and, after conviction, were confined in the same cell: but being unhappy together, from their mutual recriminations of each other, the keeper caused them to be separated.

Toon behaved more penitently than malefactors usually do; and Blastock exhibited an uncommon instance of unfeigned penitence and contrition.

They were executed at Tyburn, on the 26th of May, 1738, after having embraced each other at the place of their death, and Blastock had delivered the following speech to the surrounding multitude:

“ Dear

“ Dear Friends,

I Do not come here to excuse myself, although I have been first led into the crime for which I suffer, and then basely betrayed; no, I am sensible of my guilt, nor should I have made the world acquainted with this barbarous treatment, that I have met with, even from a near relation, had it not been with a view of preventing the ruin of many young persons.

Let my fate be an example to them, and never let any man in trade, think himself above his business, nor despise the offers of those who would serve him. Let them purchase wisdom at my cost, and never let slip any opportunity, that bids fair to be of the least advantage to them; for experience tells me, that had I done as I now advise you, I had never come to this end.

The next thing is, never to trust your life in the hands of a near relation; for money will make those who pretend to be your nearest friends, your most bitter enemies. Never be persuaded to do any thing you may be sorry for afterwards, nor believe the most solemn oaths, for there is no truth in imprecations; rather take a man's word, for those that will swear will lie. Not but that I believe there are some in the world, who would suffer the worst of deaths, rather than betray the trust reposed in them.

What I have here declared, as I am a dying man, I protest before God, is true; and here before God and the world, I freely forgive those who betrayed me, and die in peace with all mankind.

I implore the forgiveness of that God, who has promised pardon and forgiveness to all those who sincerely repent; and I hope I have done my

best endeavours, while in prison, to make my peace with a justly offended God: I hope the moment I leave this troublesome world, my soul will be received into eternal happiness, through the merits of Jesus Christ.

I conclude with my prayers for the welfare of my poor unhappy wife and children, who are now reduced to misery; and taking a long farewell of the world, I commit my spirit into the hands of him who gave me being."

REFLECTIONS.

The most remarkable circumstance observable in the lives of the above-mentioned malefactors, is the stings of conscience by which they were respectively agitated.

When Toon was loading his pistols to go on his last expedition, he was impelled to think that the fatal hour was near approaching: and Blastock's looking behind him, after the robbery was committed, and being in terror of pursuers, when no one pursued, paints, in a most forcible manner, the horror arising from conscious guilt.

Who can read these particulars of their story without being struck with an idea of the odiousness of vice, and the comparative beauty of virtue? The former will be always a torment to those who pursue it; the latter an inexhaustible source of pleasure to its admirers!

Account of the Life of JOSEPH JOHNSON, who was hanged at *Tyburn*, for Privately Stealing, when he was near sixty Years of Age.

THIS offender was the son of poor parents, who lived in the Old-Jewry, and his education

education being totally neglected, he kept bad company almost from his infancy, and becoming a pickpocket, while yet a child, he continued that practice till he was above twenty years of age.

He then took to a new mode of defraud. He used to meet porters and errand boys in the streets, and, by a variety of false pretences, get possession of the goods entrusted to their care*. For one of those offences he was taken into custody, and tried at the Old Bailey, where he was acquitted in defect of evidence.

Having thus obtained his liberty, he had recourse to his former practices, till being apprehended for stealing a sword, he was tried and convicted at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to seven years transportation.

It happened that one of his fellow-convicts was possessed of a stolen bank-note, which was changed, as is presumed, with the captain of the vessel, who had a gratuity for their liberty: for when they arrived in America, they were set at large, and took lodgings at New-York, where they lived some time in an expensive manner; and the captain, on his return to England, stopped at Rotterdam, where he offered the stolen note to a banker: on which he was lodged in prison, and did not obtain his liberty without considerable difficulty.

Johnson and his associate having quitted New York, embarked for Holland, whence they came to England, where they assumed the dress and appearance of people of fashion, and frequented all

* That is an artifice that has been practised with too much success of late years; but if servants entrusted with goods would deliver them only according to the orders given by their employers, the designs of thieves would in general be frustrated.

the places of public diversion: Thus disguised, Johnson used to mix with the croud, and steal watches, &c. which his accomplice carried off unsuspected.

The effects thus stolen were constantly sold to Jews, who sent them to Holland, where they were sold, and the robbers escaped undetected.

In the summer-time, when London was thin of company, Johnson and his companion used to ride through the country, the former appearing as a gentleman of fortune, and the latter as his servant.

On their arrival at an inn, they enquired of the landlord into the circumstances of the farmers in the neighbourhood; and when they had learnt the name and residence of one who was rich, with such other particulars as might forward their plan, the servant was dispatched to tell the farmer that the Esquire would be glad to speak with him at the inn; and he was commissioned to hint that his master's property in the public funds was very considerable.

This bait generally succeeded: the farmer hastened to the inn, where he found the Esquire in an elegant undress; who, after the first compliments, informed him that he was come down to purchase a valuable estate in the neighbourhood, which he thought so well worth the buying, that he had agreed to pay part of the money that day: but not having sufficient cash in his possession, he had sent for the farmer to lend him part of the sum; and assured him that he should be no loser by granting the favour.

To make sure of his prey, he had always some counterfeit jewels in his possession, which he used to deposit in the farmer's hands, to be taken up when the money was repaid; and, by artifices of
this

this kind, Johnson and his associate acquired large sums of money; the former not only changing his name, but disguising his person, so that detection was almost impossible.

This practice he continued for a succession of years: and, in one of his expeditions of this kind, got possession of a thousand pounds, with which he escaped unsuspected.

In order to avoid detection, he took a small house in Southwark, where he used to live in the most obscure manner, not even permitting his servant-maid to open the window, lest he should be discovered.

Thus he continued committing these kind of frauds, and living in retirement on the profits arising from them, till he reached the age of sixty years; when, though he was poor, he was afraid to make fresh excursions to the country; but thought of exercising his talents in London.

Hereupon he picked the pockets of several persons of as many watches as produced money enough to furnish him with an elegant suit of cloaths, in which he went to a public ball, where he walked a minuet with the kept mistress of a nobleman, who invited him to drink tea with her on the following day.

He attended the invitation, when she informed him that she had another engagement to a ball, and should think herself extremely honoured by his company. He readily agreed to the proposal; but while in company, he picked the pocket of Mr. Pye, a merchant's clerk, of a pocket-book, containing bank-notes to the amount of 500 pounds.

Pye had no idea of his loss till the following day, when he should have accounted with his employer. When the discovery was made, immediate notice was sent to the Bank to stop pay-
ment

ment of the notes; and Johnson was actually changing one of them to the amount of fifty pounds, when the messenger came thither.

Hereupon he was taken into custody; and being tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, for privately stealing, and being capitally convicted, was sentenced to die.

After conviction he behaved in the most improper manner, appearing to have no adequate sense of the awful fate that awaited him.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 19th of July, 1738, without making any confession of his crimes, and refusing to join in the customary devotions on such an awful occasion.

REFLECTIONS.

The case of this malefactor is very extraordinary. He continued his lawless depredations on the public for a much longer period of time than falls to the lot of offenders in general; yet he was at length taken in the snare, and fell a victim to the violated laws of his country.

Hence then let it be learnt that no continuance in guilt can ensure security; and that the longer the villain proceeds in the practice of his crimes, the longer is his term of misery extended: for it is impossible that any man can be happy, who is in perpetual apprehension of the consequence that must infallibly result from his guilt.

A wish to possess ourselves illegally of the property of others cannot be guarded against too anxiously. We ought respectively to pray, in the language of an excellent writer,

Guard my heart, O God of Heaven,

Lest I covet what's not mine;

Lest I steal what is not given,

Guard my heart and hands from sin.

Account

Account of the Life, Trial, Conviction, and Execution of WILLIAM NEWINGTON, who was Hanged at *Tyburn* for *Forgery.*

THIS unhappy young man was a native of Chichester in Suffex, and was the son of reputable parents, who having given him a good education, placed him with Mr. Cave, an attorney of that town, with whom he served his clerkship: and then coming to London, lived as a hackney-writer with Mr. Studley in Nicholas-lane, Lombard-street, for about two years and a half.

But Newington being of a volatile disposition, and much disposed to the keeping company and irregular hours, Mr. Studley discharged him from his service; on which he went to live with Mr. Leaver, a scrivener in Friday-street, with whom he continued between two and three years, and served him with a degree of fidelity that met with the highest approbation.

This service he quitted about a year before he was convicted of the offence which cost him his life; and in the interval he lived in a gay manner, without having any visible means of support, and paid his addresses to a young lady of very handsome fortune, to whom he would soon have been married, if he had not been embarrassed by the commission of the crime which gives rise to this narrative.

It is presumed, that being distressed for money to support his expensive way of life, and to carry on his amour, he was tempted to commit forgery, which, by an act of parliament then recently passed, had been made a capital offence.

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He went to Child's coffee-house in St. Paul's Church-yard, where he drew a draft on the house of Child and company, bankers in Fleet-street, in the following words:

“ Sir Francis Child and Comp.
 “ Pray pay to Sir Rowland Hill, Bart. or or-
 “ der, the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds,
 “ and place it to the account of
 “ Your humble servant,
 “ To Sir Fra. Child and THOMAS HILL.
 “ Comp. Temple-Bar.”

The draft he dispatched by a porter, but was so agitated by his fears while he wrote it, that he forgot to put any date to it; otherwise, as Mr. Thomas Hill kept cash with the bankers, and as the forgery was admirably executed, the draft would have been paid: but at the instant that the porter was about to put his indorsement on it, one of the clerks said he might go about his business, for that they did not believe the draft was a good one.

The porter returned to the coffee-house without the draft, which the bankers' clerks had refused to deliver him; but on his return he found that the gentleman was gone.

At the expiration of two hours, the bankers' clerks came to Child's coffee-house, and enquired for the person who had made the draft; but he was not to be found; for, in the absence of the porter, he had enquired for the Faculty-Office in Doctors-Commons, saying he had some business at that place, and would return in half an hour.

About two or three hours afterwards, the porter's son told him that a gentleman wanted him at
 the

the Horn and Feathers in Carter-Lane, where he went, and told Newington, that the bankers had refused to pay the note: "Very well, (said he) stay here till I go and put on my shoes, and I will go with you, and rectify the mistake."

When the porter had waited near three hours, and his employer did not return, he began to suspect that the draft was forged, and some hours afterwards calling in at the Fountain Ale-house in Cheapside, he saw Newington; on which he went and fetched a constable, who took him into custody, and lodged him in the compter.

Being tried at the next sessions at the Old-Bailey, he was capitally convicted, notwithstanding nine gentlemen appeared to give him an excellent character: but character has little weight where evidence is positive, and the crime is capital.

When called down to receive sentence of death, he delivered the following address:

" May it please your lordship,

" This my most melancholy case was occasioned by the alone inconsiderate rashness of my unexperienced years. The intent of fraud is, without doubt, most strongly and most positively found against me; but I assure your lordship I was not in want; nor did I ever think of such a thing in the whole course of my life, till within a few minutes of the execution of this rash deed.

" I hope your lordship has some regard for the gentlemen who have so generously appeared in my behalf; and as this is the first fact, though of so deep a dye, my youth and past conduct may, I hope, in some measure move
 Vol. II. No. 23. S s " your

“ your lordship’s pity, compassion, and generous assistance.”

After conviction, Newington flattered himself that he should escape the utmost ignominy of the law, through the intercession of his friends: but when the warrant for execution, in which his name was included, was brought to Newgate, he appeared to be greatly shocked; but recollecting and composing himself, he said, “ God’s will be done !” But immediately bursting into tears, he lamented the misery which his mother would naturally endure when she should be acquainted with the wretched fate of her unfortunate son.

The dreadful tidings being conveyed to his mother, she left Chichester with an aching heart; and it was a week after her arrival in London before she could acquire a sufficient degree of spirits to visit the unfortunate cause of her grief.

At length she repaired to the gloomy mansion; but when she saw her son fettered with chains, it was with the utmost difficulty that she could be kept from fainting. She hung round his neck, while he dropt on his knees, and implored her blessing and forgiveness: and so truly mournful was the spectacle, that even the goalers, accustomed as they are to scenes of horror, shed tears at the sight.

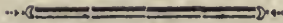
This malefactor was executed at Tyburn, on the 26th of August, 1738.

REFLECTIONS.

It does not appear from any account transmitted to us, that Newington ever violated the laws of his country, in any instance but that for which he suffered: but when we consider the nature of the offence itself, its dangerous operation upon
the

the mercantile world, and the extremity of distress in which he involved his mother, we can hardly say that he suffered too much.

No man has a right, for the support of his own extravagance, to make free with the property of another. Honest industry will support those who are in youth and health, and chuse to exert their endeavours: and with regard to the aged and infirm, our laws have provided a parish supply; which, if not as ample as could be wished, is sufficient for the support of nature: so that no person can be justified in the commission of an act of dishonesty.



Account of the extraordinary Case of GEORGE PRICE, who was convicted of the *Murder* of his *Wife*.

THIS malefactor was a native of the Hay, in Brecknockshire, where he lived as a servant to a widow lady, who was so extremely partial to him, that the neighbours circulated reports to their mutual prejudice. Having lived in this station seven years, he repaired to London, where he got places in two respectable families, and then returned to his former service in Wales; when his mistress treated him with such distinction, that the country people became more severe in their censures than before.

On his quitting this lady a second time, she made him a present of a valuable watch, which he brought to London; and then engaged in the service of — Brown, Esq. of Golden-square, who used to make frequent excursions to Hampstead, attended by his servant.

Price now became acquainted with Mary Chambers, servant at a public-house at Hampstead, whom he married at the expiration of a fortnight from his first paying his addresses to her: but Mr. Brown disapproving of the match, dismissed Price from his service.

Soon after this he took his wife into Brecknockshire, and imposed her on his relations as the daughter of a military officer, who would become entitled to a large fortune. He was treated in the most friendly manner by his relations; and the young couple returning to London, the wife went to lodge at Hampstead, while Price engaged in the service of a gentleman in New Broadstreet.

Mrs. Price being delivered of twins, desired her husband to buy some medicines to make the children sleep, which he procured; and the children dying soon afterwards, a report was circulated that he had poisoned them; but this circumstance he denied to the last moment of his life.

In a short time, Price's master removed into Kent, whither he attended him; and, in the interim, his wife was again brought to bed, a circumstance that greatly chagrined him; as he had now made other connections, and grew weary of the support of his own family. Shortly afterwards Mrs. Price was again pregnant, on which he told her he could not support any more children, and recommended her to take medicines to procure an abortion; which was accordingly done, and the horrid intention was answered.

Price now paid his addresses to a widow in Kent, and conceiving his wife as an obstacle between

tween him and his wishes, he formed the infernal resolution of murdering her.

Having been bruised by a fall from his horse, and his master having business in London, he was left behind, to take his passage in a Margate Hoy, as soon as his health would permit: and on his arrival at Billingsgate, his wife was waiting to receive him, in the hope of obtaining some money towards her present support.

Price no sooner beheld her than he began to concert the plan of the intended murder: on which he told her that he had procured the place of a nursery-maid for her in the neighbourhood of Putney, and that he would attend her thither that very day. He then directed her to clean herself, and meet him at the Woolpack in Monkwell-street.

In her way to her lodgings she called at the house of her husband's master, where the servants advised her not to trust herself in her husband's company; but she said she had no fear of him, as he had treated her with unusual kindness. Accordingly she went home and dressed herself, (having borrowed some cloaths of her landlady) and met her husband, who put her in a chaise, and drove her out of town towards Hounslow.

As they were riding along, she begged he would stop while she bought some snuff, which he, in a laughing manner, refused to do, saying she would never want any again. When he came on Hounslow-Heath it was near ten o'clock at night, when he suddenly stopped the chaise, and threw the lash of the whip round his wife's neck: but drawing it too hastily, he made a violent mark on her chin; but immediately finding his mistake, he placed it lower; on which she exclaimed, "My dear! my dear! for God's sake

“ —if

"—if this is your love, I will never trust you more."

Immediately on her pronouncing these words, which were her last, he pulled the ends of the whip with great force: but the violence of his passion abating, he let go before she was quite dead: yet resolving to accomplish the horrid deed, he once more put the thong of the whip about her neck, and pulled it with such violence that it broke; but not till the poor woman was dead.

Having stripped the body, he left it almost under a gibbet where some malefactors hung in chains, having first disfigured it to such a degree that he presumed it could not be known. He brought the cloaths to London, some of which he cut in pieces, and dropped in different streets: but knowing that the others were borrowed of the landlady, he sent them to her, a circumstance that materially conduced to his conviction.

He reached London about one o'clock in the morning, and being interrogated why he came at such an unseasonable hour, he said that the Margate Hoy had been detained in the river by contrary winds.

On the following day, the servants, and other people, made so many enquiries respecting his wife, that, terrified at the idea of being taken into custody, he immediately fled to Portsmouth, with a view of entering on board a ship; but no vessel was then ready to sail.

While he was drinking at an ale-house in Portsmouth, he heard the bell-man crying him as a murderer, with such an exact description of him, that he was apprehensive of being seized; and observing a window which opened to the water, he jumped out, and swam for his life.

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Having gained the shore, he travelled all night, till he reached a farm-house, where he enquired for employment. The farmer's wife said he did not appear as if he had been used to country-work; but he might stay till her husband's arrival.

The farmer regarded him with great attention, and said he wanted a plowman, but he was certain that he would not answer his purpose, as he had the appearance of a person who had absconded for debt; or possibly there might be some criminal prosecution against him.

Price expressed his readiness to do any thing for an honest subsistence; but the farmer refused to employ him; though he said he would give him a supper and a lodging. But when bed-time came, the farmer's men refused to sleep with Price, in the fear of his robbing them of their cloaths: in consequence of which he was obliged to lay on some straw in the barn.

On the following day he crossed the country towards Oxford, where he endeavoured to get into service, and would have been engaged by a physician, but happening to read a newspaper in which he was advertised, he immediately decamped from Oxford, and travelled into Wales.

Having stopped at a village a few miles from Hay, at the house of a shoe-maker, to whom his brother was apprenticed, the latter obtained his master's permission to accompany his brother home; and while they were on their walk, the malefactor recounted the particulars of the murder, which had obliged him to seek his safety in flight.

The brother commiserated his condition; and, leaving him at a small distance from their father's house, went in, and found the old gentleman
read-

reading an advertisement, describing the murderer. The younger son bursting into tears, the father said he hoped his brother was not come; to which the youth replied, "Yes, he is at the door; but being afraid that some of the neighbours were in the house, he would not come in till he had your permission."

The offender being introduced, fell on his knees, and earnestly besought his father's blessing; to which the aged parent said, "Ah! George, I wish God may bless you; and what I have heard concerning you may be false." The son said, "It is false; but let me have a private room: make no words: I have done no harm: let me have a room to myself."

Being accommodated agreeable to his request, he produced half a crown, begging that his brother would buy a lancet, as he was resolved to put a period to his miserable existence: but the brother declined to be any way aiding to the commission of the crime of suicide; and the father, after exerting every argument to prevent his thinking of such a violation of the laws of God, concealed him for two days.

It happened that the neighbours observing a fire in a room where none had been for a considerable time before, a report was propagated that Price was secreted in the house of his father; whereupon he thought it prudent to abscond in the night: and having reached Gloucester, he went to an inn, and procured the place of an ostler.

The terrors of his conscience now agitated him to such a degree, that the other servants could not help asking what ailed him; to which he replied, that a girl he had courted having married

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another man, he had never been able to enjoy any peace of mind since.

During his residence at Gloucester, two of the sons of the lady with whom he had first lived as a servant, happened to be at a school in that city, and Price behaved to them with so much civility, that they wrote to their mother, describing his conduct; in reply to which she informed them that he had killed his wife, and desired them not to hold any correspondence with him.

The young gentlemen mentioning this circumstance, one of Price's fellow-servants said to him, "You are the man that murdered your wife on Hounslow-Heath. I will not betray you; but if you stay longer, you will certainly be taken into custody."

Stung by the reflections of his own conscience, and agitated by the fear of momentary detection, Price knew not how to act: but at length he resolved to come to London, and surrender to justice: and calling on his former master, and being apprehended, he was committed to Newgate.

At the following sessions at the Old Bailey, he was brought to his trial, and convicted on almost the strongest circumstantial evidence that was ever adduced against any offender. He had prepared a written defence; but declined reading it, as he found it was so little likely to operate with any effect in his favour.

He was sentenced to death: but died in Newgate before the law could be executed on him, on the 22d of October, 1738.

REFLECTIONS.

We are taught, in the case of this unhappy wretch and his wife, some very useful lessons of instruction. Price was guilty of murder in a

complicated sense. He first advised his wife to take medicines to procure abortion; and then actually murdered her who could be base enough to follow such pernicious advice: thus she, as is but too commonly the case in instances of departure from the laws of God, fell a sacrifice to the passions of her seducer.

What must have been the thoughts of this unhappy wretch, when, after having murdered his wife, he deposited her body almost under the gibbet on Hounslow-Heath! What must have been the terrors of his conscience when he heard his person minutely described by the bell-man at Portsmouth! What must be his feelings when he discovered his guilt to his brother, and when he met the eye of his offended parent! How agonized must his mind have been when he desired his brother to buy a lancet, that he might add suicide to murder! In a word, what terrors must this most unhappy wretch have felt in his peregrinations through the country, from his commission of the crime to his surrender to justice, and thence to the moment of his exit!

If ever any man could, well might he say, in the words of scripture, "A wounded spirit who can bear?"

From this melancholy narrative it is easy to learn, that peace of mind must result from a conscientious discharge of our duty, and that the farther we depart from it, so much the greater advances we make towards final and irretrievable destruction!



Vampiro delent.

Roberts sculpf.

RICHARD TURPIN, *Shooting a Man near his
Cave on Epping Forest.*

A full Account of the Life and Transactions of the famous RICHARD TURPIN, who was Hanged at *York*, for *Horse-Stealing*.

THE transactions of this malefactor made a greater noise in the world at the time they happened than those of almost any other offender whose life we have recorded: and we shall therefore be the more particular in our account of him.

He was the son of John Turpin, a farmer at Hempstead in Essex, and having received a common school education, was apprenticed to a butcher in Whitechapel; but was distinguished from his early youth for the impropriety of his behaviour, and the brutality of his manners.

On the expiration of his apprenticeship, he married a young woman of East Ham in Essex, named Palmer: but he had not been long married before he took to the practice of stealing his neighbours' cattle, which he used to kill and cut up for sale.

Having stolen two oxen belonging to Mr. Giles, of Plaistow, he drove them to his own house; but two of Giles's servants suspecting who was the robber, went to Turpin's, where they saw two beasts of such size as had been lost; but as the hides were stripped from them, it was impossible to say that they were the same: but learning that Turpin used to dispose of his hides at Waltham-Abbey, they went thither, and saw the hides of the individual beasts that had been stolen.

No doubt now remaining who was the robber, a warrant was procured for the apprehension of Turpin; but learning that the peace-officers

were in search of him, he made his escape from the back-window of his house, at the very moment that the others were entering at the door.

Having retreated to a place of security, he found means to inform his wife where he was concealed; on which she furnished him with money, with which he travelled into the hundreds of Essex, where he joined a gang of smugglers, with whom he was for some time successful; till a set of the Custom-house officers, by one successful stroke, deprived him of all his ill-acquired gains.

Thrown out of this kind of business, he connected himself with a gang of deer-stealers, the principal part of whose depredations were committed on Epping-Forest, and the parks in its neighbourhood; but this business not succeeding to the expectation of the robbers, they determined to commence house-breakers.

Their plan was to fix on houses that they presumed contained any valuable property; and, while one of them knocked at the door, the others were to rush in, and seize whatever they might deem worthy of their notice.

The first attack of this kind was at the house of Mr. Strype, an old man who kept a chandler's shop at Watford, whom they robbed of all the money in his possession, but did not offer him any personal abuse.

Turpin now acquainted his associates that there was an old woman at Loughton, who was in possession of seven or eight hundred pounds; whereupon they agreed to rob her; and when they came to the door, one of them knocked, and the rest forcing their way into the house, tied handkerchiefs over the eyes of the old woman and her maid.

This

This being done, Turpin demanded what money was in the house; and the owner hesitating to tell him, he threatened to set her on the fire if she did not make an immediate discovery. Still, however, she declined to give the desired information; on which the villains actually placed her on the fire, where she sat till the tormenting pains compelled her to discover her hidden treasure; so that the robbers possessed themselves of above four hundred pounds, and decamped with the booty.

Some little time after this, they agreed to rob the house of a farmer near Barking; and knocking at the door, the people declined to open it; on which they broke it open; and having bound the farmer, his wife, his son-in-law, and the servant-maid, they robbed the house of above seven hundred pounds; which delighted Turpin so much, that he exclaimed, "Aye, this will do, if it would always be so!" and the robbers retired with their prize, which amounted to above eighty pounds for each of them.

This desperate gang, now flushed with success, determined to attack the house of Mr. Mason, the keeper of Epping-Forest; and the time was fixed when the plan was to be carried into execution: but Turpin having gone to London, to spend his share of the former booty, intoxicated himself to such a degree that he totally forgot the appointment.

Nevertheless, the rest of the gang resolved that the absence of their companion should not frustrate the proposed design; and having taken a solemn oath to break every article of furniture in Mason's house, they set out on their expedition.

Having gained admission, they beat and kicked the unhappy man with great severity. Finding

ing an old man sitting by the fire-side, they permitted him to remain uninjured; and Mr. Mason's daughter escaped their fury, by running out of the house, and taking shelter in a hog-stie.

After ransacking the lower part of the house, and doing much mischief, they went up stairs, where they broke every thing that fell in their way, and among the rest a china punch-bowl, from which dropped one hundred and twenty guineas, which they made prey of, and effected their escape. They now went to London in search of Turpin, with whom they shared the booty, though he had not taken an active part in the execution of the villainy.

On the 11th of January, 1735, Turpin and five of his companions went to the house of Mr. Saunders, a rich farmer at Charlton in Kent, between seven and eight in the evening, and having knocked at the door, asked if Mr. Saunders was at home. Being answered in the affirmative, they rushed into the house, and found Mr. Saunders, with his wife and friends, playing at cards in the parlour. They told the company that they should remain uninjured if they made no disturbance. Having made prize of a silver snuff-box which lay on the table, a part of the gang stood guard over the rest of the company, while the others attended Mr. Saunders through the house, and breaking open his escrutores and closets, stole above a hundred pounds, exclusive of plate.

During these transactions the servant-maid ran up stairs, barred the door of her room, and called out "Thieves," with a view of alarming the neighbourhood: but the robbers broke open the door of her room, secured her, and then robbed the house of all the valuable property they had

not

not before taken. Finding some minced-pies, and some bottles of wine, they sat down to regale themselves; and meeting with a bottle of brandy, they compelled each of the company to drink a glass of it.

Mrs. Saunders fainting through terror, they administered some drops in water to her, and recovered her to the use of her senses. Having staid in the house a considerable time, they packed up their booty and departed, having first declared that if any of the family gave the least alarm within two hours, or advertised the marks of the stolen plate, they would return and murder them at a future time.

Retiring to a public-house at Woolwich, where they had concerted the robbery, they crossed the Thames to an empty house in Ratcliffe-Highway, where they deposited the stolen effects till they found a purchaser for them.

The division of the plunder having taken place, they, on the 18th of the same month, went to the house of Mr. Sheldon, near Croydon in Surry, where they arrived about seven in the evening. Having got into the yard, they perceived a light in the stable, and going into it, found the coachman attending his horses. Having immediately bound him, they quitted the stable, and meeting Mr. Sheldon in the yard, they seized him, and compelling him to conduct them into the house, they stole eleven guineas, with the jewels, plate, and other things of value, to a large amount. Having committed this robbery, they returned Mr. Sheldon two guineas, and apologized for their conduct.

This being done, they hastened to the Black-Horse in the Broad-way Westminster, where they concerted the robbery of Mr. Lawrence of Edg-

ware,

ware, near Stanmore in Middlesex, for which place they set out on the 4th of February, and arrived at a public-house in that village about five o'clock in the evening. From this place they went to Mr. Lawrence's house, where they arrived about seven o'clock, just as he had discharged some people who had worked for him.

Having quitted their horses at the outer-gate, one of the robbers going forwards, found a boy who had just returned from folding his sheep: the rest of the gang following, a pistol was presented, and instant destruction threatened if he made any noise. They then took off his garters, and tied his hands, and told him to direct them to the door, and when they knocked, to answer, and bid the servants open it, in which case they would not hurt him: but when the boy came to the door he was so terrified that he could not speak; on which one of the gang knocked, and a manservant, imagining it was one of the neighbours, opened the door, whereupon they all rushed in, armed with pistols.

Having seized Mr. Lawrence and his servant, they threw a cloth over their faces, and taking the boy into another room, demanded what fire-arms were in the house; to which he replied only an old gun, which they broke in pieces. They then bound Mr. Lawrence and his man, and made them sit by the boy; and Turpin searching the gentleman, took from him a guinea, a Portugal piece, and some silver; but not being satisfied with this booty, they forced him to conduct them up stairs, where they broke open a closet, and stole some money and plate: but that not being sufficient to satisfy them, they threatened to murder Mr. Lawrence, each of them destining him to a different death, as the savageness of his
own

own nature prompted him. At length one of them took a kettle of water from the fire, and threw it over him; but it providentially happened not to be hot enough to scald him.

In the interim the maid-servant, who was churning butter in the dairy, hearing a noise in the house, apprehended some mischief; on which she blew out her candle, to screen herself; but being found in the course of their search, one of the miscreants compelled her to go up stairs, where he gratified his brutal passion by force. They then robbed the house of all the valuable effects they could find, locked the family into the parlour, threw the key into the garden, and took their ill-gotten plunder to London.

The particulars of this atrocious robbery being represented to the king, a proclamation was issued for the apprehension of the offenders, promising a pardon to any one of them who would impeach his accomplices; and a reward of fifty pounds was offered, to be paid on conviction. This, however, had no effect; the robbers continued their depredations as before; and, flushed with the success they had met with, seemed to bid defiance to the laws.

On the 7th of February, six of them assembled at the White-Bear-inn, in Drury-Lane, where they agreed to rob the house of Mr. Francis, a farmer near Marybone. Arriving at the place, they found a servant in the cow-house, whom they bound fast, and threatened to murder him if he was not perfectly silent. This being done, they led him into the stable, where finding another of the servants, they bound him in the same manner.

In the interim Mr. Francis happening to come home, they presented their pistols to his breast; and threatened instant destruction to him; if he made the least noise or opposition.

Having bound the master in the stable with his servants, they rushed into the house, tied Mrs. Francis, her daughter, and the maid-servant, and beat them in a most cruel manner. One of the thieves stood as a centry while the rest rifled the house, in which they found a silver tankard, a medal of Charles the First, a gold watch, several gold rings, a considerable sum of money, and a variety of valuable linen and other effects, which they conveyed to London.

Hereupon a reward of an hundred pounds was offered for the apprehension of the offenders; in consequence of which two of them were taken into custody, tried, convicted on the evidence of an accomplice, and hanged in chains: and the whole gang being dispersed, Turpin went into the country, to renew his depredations on the public.

On a journey towards Cambridge, he met a man genteely dressed, and well mounted; and expecting a good booty, he presented a pistol to the supposed gentleman, and demanded his money. The party thus stopped happened to be one King, a famous highwayman, who knew Turpin; and when the latter threatened instant destruction if he did not deliver his money, King burst into a fit of laughter, and said, "What dog eat dog?—Come, come, brother Turpin; if you don't know me, I know you, and shall be glad of your company."

These brethren in iniquity soon struck the bargain, and immediately entering on business, committed

mitted a number of robberies; till at length they were so well known, that no public-house would receive them as guests. Thus situated, they fixed on a spot between the King's-Oak and the Loughton Road, on Epping-Forest, where they made a cave, which was large enough to receive them and their horses.

This cave was inclosed within a sort of thicket of bushes and brambles, through which they could look and see passengers on the road, while themselves remained unobserved.

From this station they used to issue, and robbed such a number of persons, that at length the very pedlars who travelled the road carried fire-arms for their defence: and, while they were in this retreat, Turpin's wife used to supply them with necessaries, and frequently remained in the cave during the night.

Having taken a ride as far as Bungay in Suffolk, they observed two young women receive fourteen pounds for corn, on which Turpin resolved to rob them of the money. King objected, saying it was a pity to rob such pretty girls: but Turpin was obstinate, and obtained the booty.

Upon their return home on the following day, they stopped a Mr. Bradele, of London, who was riding in his chariot with his children. The gentleman, seeing only one robber, was preparing to make resistance, when King called to Turpin to hold the horses. They took from the gentleman his watch, money, and an old mourning ring; but returned the latter, as he declared that its intrinsic value was trifling, yet he was very unwilling to part from it.

Finding that they readily parted with the ring, he asked them what he must give for the watch:

on which King said to Turpin, "What say ye, Jack *?—Here seems to be a good honest fellow; shall we let him have the watch?"—Turpin replied, "Do as you please:" on which King said to the gentleman, "You must pay six guineas for it: We never sell for more, though the watch should be worth six and thirty." The gentleman promised that the money should be left at the Dial in Birchin-Lane, where they might receive it, and no questions would be asked. †

Not long after this, Turpin was guilty of murder, which arose from the following circumstance: A reward of an hundred pounds having been offered for apprehending him, the servant of a gentleman named Thompson went out with a higgler, to try if they could take this notorious offender. Turpin seeing them approach near his dwelling, Mr. Thompson's man having a gun, he mistook them for poachers; on which he said, there were no hares near that thicket: "No, (said Thompson's servant) but I have found a Turpin;" and presenting his gun, required him to surrender.

Hereupon Turpin spoke to him, as in a friendly manner, and gradually retreated at the same time, till having seized his own gun, he
shot

* King always called Turpin by the name of Jack.

† It was formerly a common practice to advertise, that if stolen goods were left at a particular place mentioned in the advertisement, a certain reward would be paid, and *no questions asked*; but this has been happily abolished by the better policy of modern times.

shot him dead on the spot, and the higgler ran off with the utmost precipitation.

This transaction making a great noise in the neighbourhood, Turpin went further into the country in search of his old companion, King; and in the mean time sent a letter to his wife, to meet him at a public-house at Hertford. The woman attended according to this direction; and her husband coming into the house soon after she arrived, a butcher, to whom he owed five pounds, happened to see him; on which he said, "Come, Dick, I know you have money now; and if you will pay me, it will be of great service."

Turpin told him that his wife was in the next room; that she had money, and that he should be paid immediately: but while the butcher was hinting to some of his acquaintance, that the person present was Turpin, and that they might take him into custody after he had received his debt, the highwayman made his escape through a window, and rode off with great expedition.

Turpin having found King, and a man named Potter, who had lately connected himself with them, they set off towards London in the dusk of the evening; but when they came near the Green Man on Epping-Forest, they overtook a Mr. Major, who riding on a very fine horse, and Turpin's beast being jaded, he obliged the rider to dismount, and exchange horses.

The robbers now pursued their journey towards London, and Mr. Major going to the Green Man, gave an account of the affair; on which it was conjectured that Turpin had been the robber, and that the horse which he had exchanged must have been stolen.

It was on a Saturday evening that this robbery was committed; but Mr. Major being advised to
print

print hand-bills immediately, notice was given to the landlord of the Green Man, that such a horse as Mr. Major had lost, had been left at the Red-Lion in Whitechapel. The landlord going thither, determined to wait till some person came for it; and, at about eleven at night, King's brother came to pay for the horse, and take him away; on which he was immediately seized, and conducted into the house.

Being asked what right he had to the horse, he said he had bought it: but the landlord examining a whip which he had in his hand, found a button at the end of the handle half broken off, and the name of Major on the remaining half. Hereupon he was given into custody of a constable: but as it was not supposed that he was the actual robber, he was told that he should have his liberty, if he would discover his employer.

Hereupon he said that a stout man, in a white duffil coat, was waiting for the horse in Red-Lion-Street; on which the company going thither, saw King, who drew a pistol, and attempted to fire it, but it flashed in the pan: he then endeavoured to pull out another pistol, but he could not, as it got entangled in his pocket.

At this time Turpin was watching at a small distance: and riding towards the spot, King cried out "Shoot him, or we are taken:" on which Turpin fired, and shot his companion, who called out "Dick, you have killed me;" which the other hearing, rode off at full speed.

King lived a week after this affair, and gave information that Turpin might be found at a house near Hackney-Marsh; and, on enquiry, it was discovered that Turpin had been there on the night that he rode off, lamenting that he had killed

killed King, who was the most faithful associate he ever had in his life.

For a considerable time did Turpin skulk about the forest, having been deprived of his retreat in the cave since he shot the servant of Mr. Thompson. On the examination of this cave there were found two shirts, two pair of stockings, a piece of ham, and part of a bottle of wine.

Some vain attempts were made to take this notorious offender into custody; and among the rest, the huntsman of a gentleman in the neighbourhood went in search of him with bloodhounds. Turpin perceiving them, got into a tree, under which the hounds passed, to his inexpressible terror, so that he determined to make a retreat into Yorkshire.

Going first to Long-Sutton in Lincolnshire, he stole some horses; for which he was taken into custody; but he escaped from the constable as he was conducting him before a magistrate, and hastened to Welton in Yorkshire, where he went by the name of John Palmer, and assumed the character of a gentleman.

He now frequently went into Lincolnshire, where he stole horses, which he brought into Yorkshire, and either sold or exchanged them.

He often accompanied the neighbouring gentlemen on their parties of hunting and shooting; and one evening, on a return from an expedition of the latter kind, he wantonly shot a cock belonging to his landlord. On this Mr. Hall, a neighbour, said, "You have done wrong in shooting your landlord's cock;" to which Turpin replied, that if he would stay while he loaded his gun, he would shoot him also.

Irritated by this insult, Mr. Hall informed the landlord of what had passed; and application being

ing made to some magistrates, a warrant was granted for the apprehension of the offender, who being taken into custody, and carried before a bench of justices then assembled at the quarter sessions at Beverley, they demanded security for his good behaviour, which he being unable or unwilling to give, was committed to Bridewell.

On enquiry, it appeared that he made frequent journies into Lincolnshire, and on his return he always abounded in money, and was likewise in possession of several horses; so that it was conjectured that he was an horse-stealer and highwayman.

On this the magistrates went to him on the following day, and demanded who he was, where he had lived, and what was his employment. He replied in substance, "that about two years ago
" he had lived at Long-Sutton in Lincolnshire,
" and was by trade a butcher; but that having
" contracted several debts for sheep that proved
" rotten, he was obliged to abscond, and come to
" live in Yorkshire."

The magistrates not being satisfied with this tale, commissioned the clerk of the peace to write into Lincolnshire, to make the necessary enquiries respecting the supposed John Palmer. The letter was carried by a special messenger, who brought an answer from a magistrate in the neighbourhood, importing that John Palmer was well known; though he had never carried on trade there: that he had been accused of sheep-stealing, for which he had been in custody, but had made his escape from the peace-officers; and that there were several informations lodged against him for horse-stealing.

Hereupon the magistrates thought it prudent to remove him to York-Castle, where he had not
been

been more than a month, when two persons from Lincolnshire came and claimed a mare and foal, and likewise a horse, which he had stolen in that county.

After he had been about four months in prison, he wrote the following letter to his brother in Essex:—

“ Dear Brother, York, Feb. 6, 1739.

I AM sorry to acquaint you that I am now under confinement in York Castle, for horse-stealing. If I could procure an evidence from London to give me a character, that would go a great way towards my being acquitted. I had not been long in this country before my being apprehended, so that it would pass off the readier. For Heaven’s sake, dear brother, do not neglect me; you will know what I mean, when I say——

I am yours,

JOHN PALMER.

This letter being returned, unopened, to the Post-Office in Essex, because the brother would not pay the postage of it, was accidentally seen by Mr. Smith, a schoolmaster, who having taught Turpin to write, immediately knew his hand, on which he carried the letter to a magistrate, who broke it open; by which it was discovered that the supposed John Palmer was the real Richard Turpin.

Hereupon the magistrates of Essex dispatched Mr. Smith to York, who immediately selected him from all the other prisoners in the castle. This Mr. Smith, and another gentleman, afterwards proved his identity on his trial.

On the rumour that the noted Turpin was a prisoner in York Castle, persons flocked from all parts of the country to take a view of him, and debates ran very high whether he was the real person or not. Among others who visited him was a young fellow who pretended to know the famous Turpin, and having regarded him a considerable time with looks of great attention, he told the keeper he would bet him half a guinea that he was not Turpin; on which the prisoner, whispering the keeper, said "Lay him the wager, and I'll go your halves."

When this notorious malefactor was brought to trial, he was convicted on two indictments, and received sentence of death.

After conviction he wrote to his father, imploring him to intercede with a gentleman and lady of rank, to make interest that his sentence might be remitted; and that he might be transported. The father did what was in his power; but the notoriety of his character was such, that no persons would exert themselves in his favour.

This man lived in the most gay and thoughtless manner after conviction, regardless of all considerations of futurity, and affecting to make a jest of the dreadful fate that awaited him.

Not many days before his execution, he purchased a new fustian frock and a pair of pumps, in order to wear them at the time of his death: and, on the day before, he hired five poor men, at ten shillings each, to follow the cart as mourners; and he gave hatbands and gloves to several other persons: and he also left a ring, and some other articles, to a married woman in Lincolnshire, with whom he had been acquainted.

On the morning of his death he was put into a cart, and being followed by his mourners, as
above-

above-mentioned, he was drawn to the place of execution, in his way to which he bowed to the spectators with an air of the most astonishing indifference and intrepidity.

When he came to the fatal tree, he ascended the ladder; when his right leg trembling, he stamped it down with an air of assumed courage, as if he was ashamed to be observed to discover any signs of fear. Having conversed with the executioner about half an hour, he threw himself off the ladder, and expired in a few minutes.

He suffered at York, on the 10th of April, 1739.

The spectators of the execution seemed to be much affected at the fate of this man, who was distinguished by the comeliness of his appearance. The corps was brought to the Blue Boar, in Castle-Gate, York, where it remained till the next morning, when it was interred in the Churchyard of St. George's parish, with an inscription on the coffin, with the initials of his name, and his age. The grave was made remarkably deep, and the people who acted as mourners took such measures as they thought would secure the body: yet about three o'clock on the following morning, some people were observed in the churchyard, who carried it off; and the populace having an intimation whither it was conveyed, found it in a garden belonging to one of the surgeons of the city.

Hereupon they took the body, laid it on a board, and having carried it through the streets, in a kind of triumphal manner, and then filled the coffin with unslackened lime, buried it in the grave where it had been before deposited.

REFLECTIONS.

We see, in the case of this malefactor, what slight circumstances may lead to the conviction of the most notorious offender. The shooting of a cock, in the mere wantonness of his heart, occasioned Turpin's being taken into custody: the scrutiny into his character followed of course; and he was brought to condign punishment by an accident that would have been laughed at by any man of unblemished reputation.

His brother refusing to pay the postage of his letter was another circumstance apparently trivial; yet this produced that sort of evidence which most materially affected him, by the school-master's proving that he was the identical Turpin, who had been so notorious for his enormous offences in the southern counties.

It is not impossible but that he might have been pardoned, or transported, after a simple conviction for horse-stealing: but the notoriety of his character drew down certain destruction on his head.

Hence then, the young, the thoughtless, and all those whose dispositions may tempt them to acts of dishonesty, should learn the high value of an unblemished reputation; should consider that a good character is above all price, and that it ought to be preserved as a more precious jewel than could be purchased by all the riches of the eastern world!

In a word, the laws of the great Creator are, in every instance, so compatible with, and so productive of, the interest and happiness of mankind, that one would think no man could violate them, who did not wilfully seek his own destruction!

Account

Account of ABRAHAM WELLS, who was
Hanged at *Tyburn* for *Horse-Stealing.*

THIS malefactor was the son of a carpenter at Enfield, who was at some expence to give him a common school education; but the boy was such a dunce, or so idle, that it was impossible to teach him even to learn to read with any degree of propriety.

Having served his time to a butcher at his native place, he engaged in business for himself; and sold considerable quantities of meat by wholesale at the London markets. He paid his addresses to a widow of some fortune, whom he married: but she prudently reserved a part of her property to her own use.

When Wells had been married some time, he became so uneasy that his wife opposed his extravagance; that, being unhappy at home, he kept bad company, though it was some years before he committed the crime which cost him his life.

A man being indicted at the Old Bailey for horse-stealing, Wells became an evidence in his favour: but his testimony was of such a nature, that he was committed to Newgate for perjury, and not released till he had suffered six months imprisonment, and paid a fine.

He had now frequent quarrels with his wife and her relations; in consequence of which he neglected his business, so that he lost the greater part of his customers. Thus distressed in mind and circumstances, he stole a horse from a field near Edmonton, which he took to Smithfield Market, and offered to sale; but the owner of the horse having repaired to London before him, had him
taken

taken into custody on the spot, and carried before a magistrate, who committed him to prison.

Previous to his trial he caused some of his relations to be served with subpoenas, to give evidence respecting him; and among the rest two of his wife's brothers; but these men, instead of endeavouring to alleviate his distress, represented him to the court as a man of abandoned character, who had long since deserved the severest sentence of the law: nay, so virulent was their malice, that they told the court the circumstance of his having been committed for perjury, as above-mentioned. This conduct was justly censured by the judges, who represented the cruelty of their endeavouring to injure a man whom they were called in to serve; and observed that with regard to the perjury, he had already suffered the sentence of the law, so that it had no reference to the case in hand.

The evidence against him being clear and positive, conviction followed of course, and he received sentence of death.

After conviction he spoke with the utmost bitterness of reproach, respecting the conduct of his wife and relations; and though the former repeatedly went to Newgate, he constantly refused to see her, till within a few days of his death, when the approaching horror of his fate seemed to have made such an impression on his mind, that he consented to receive her visit.

On their first meeting they wrung their hands in an agony of grief, but floods of tears coming to their relief, their affliction in some degree subsided; and then they mutually recriminated on each other; the wife abused the husband for ruining his family; and he said that she had been the occasion of his present misfortunes

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On her next visit he again censured her conduct; on which she charged him with having associated with another woman; but this he solemnly denied, on the words of a dying man; and averred that the affair had no foundation but in the jealousy of her own disposition. The Ordinary of Newgate now interposed, and represented to Mrs. Wells the extreme impropriety of censuring a man in her husband's unhappy circumstances.

On the day before his death his mind was agitated to such a degree, that it was thought he might be guilty of suicide, on which a man was engaged to be with him, to prevent the dreadful consequences: but his mind soon became more composed, and he employed himself in exercises of devotion.

When he arrived at the fatal tree, he lamented the errors of his past life in the most affecting manner: but even at that solemn period he could not help reflecting on his wife's relations, who, he said, had promoted his ruin.

He was executed at Tyburn, on the 30th of May, 1739, appearing, in his last moments, more resigned than he had been for a considerable time before.

REFLECTIONS.

Though the misfortunes of this malefactor must have originated in a great measure from his own vices, yet it is no ungenerous supposition to conclude, that the jealousy of his wife, and the unfeeling disposition of her relations, contributed, in some degree, to his destruction.

Jealousy, either in man or woman, is the bane of happiness in the married life. It is said that women are more apt to be jealous than men, from the superior tenderness of their affections. Be this as it may, it is the duty of every married couple

couple to guard, with the utmost caution, against the inroads of a passion which must infallibly prey on their very vitals, and make them inexpressibly wretched as long as they indulge it.

With regard to the cruelty of Wells's relations, who gave him, on his trial, the worst character they possibly could, it must be attributed to the malignity of their own hearts: but it is impossible not to execrate wretches who could thus sport with the calamities of the afflicted, and render misery still more miserable.

Let the readers of this narrative implore the Divine disposer of all blessings to bestow on them hearts of sensibility and tenderness; that, by the assistance of Almighty God, they may promote the happiness of their fellow-creatures, by the very same means that contribute to the advancement of their own.

Account of the Case of JAS. CALDCLOUGH,
who was Hanged at *Tyburn* for *Robbery*.

THE city of Durham gave birth to this offender, who was the son of people of fair character, who having given him a decent education, put him apprentice to a shoemaker, with whom he lived about three years, when having contracted a habit of idleness, and being attached to bad company, he quitted his master, and enlisted in the second regiment of foot-guards.

He had not been long in London before he became acquainted with a fellow named Thomas, who offered to put him into an easy way of getting money; and Caldcough listening to his invitation, dined with Thomas and some of his associates, on a Sunday, at a public-house; and afterwards

terwards attended them to Newington-Green, where they continued drinking for some time, and at the approach of evening set out towards London, with a view of robbing such persons as they might meet.

As they crossed the fields towards Hoxton, they stopped a gentleman, whom they robbed of a watch, and some silver, and tying him to a gate, they retired to a public-house in Brick-Lane, Old-Street, where they spent the night in riot and drunkenness.

Caldclough being a young fellow of genteel appearance, and remarkable spirit, his accomplices advised him to commence highwayman; but none of them having money to purchase horses, and other necessaries to equip them in a genteel manner, it was determined that two of the gang should commit a robbery which might put them in a way of committing others.

With this view they went into Kent, and stole two horses, which they placed at a livery-stable near Moorfields: after which the gang went in a body to Welling in Hertfordshire, where they broke open a house, and stole about fourteen pounds in money and some things of value, which furnished them with cloaths, and the other requisites for their intended expedition.

Thus provided, they rode to Enfield Chace, where they robbed the passengers in a stage-coach of their watches and money; and soon afterwards stopped another coach in the road to Epping-Forest, from which they got a large booty, which they divided at their place of meeting in Brick-Lane, Old-Street, and spent the night in licentious revelry.

But a short time had passed after this robbery, when Caldclough and one of his companions rode to Epping Forest, and having stopped a coach in which were two gentlemen and a young lady; a servant that was behind the coach would have attacked the robbers, but that the gentlemen desired him to desist, that the young lady might not be terrified. The gentlemen then gave the robbers their money, apologizing for the smallness of the sum, and saying that they should have been welcome to more had it been in their possession.

As they were riding towards London, after committing this robbery, they quitted their horses and fastened them to a tree, in order to rob the Woodford stage-coach, which they observed to be full of passengers: but the coachman suspecting their intent, drove off with such expedition, that they could not overtake the carriage.

Disappointed in this attempt they rode towards Wanstead, where they saw another coach, the passengers in which they intended to have robbed: but as a number of butchers from London rode close behind the carriage, they thought proper to desist from so dangerous an attempt.

Thus disappointed of the expected booty, Caldclough and Thomas, on the following day, which was Sunday, rode to Stamford-Hill, where they robbed three persons of their watches, and about four pounds in cash. Flushed with this success they determined to put every person they should meet under contribution: in consequence of which they robbed seven persons more before they reached London, from whom they obtained about ten guineas, with which they retired to the old place of resort in Brick-Lane.

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Soon after this they rode to Finchley Common, where meeting with only empty carriages, they were returning to London, when they met the Barnet coach, near Islington, and robbed the company of about fifteen shillings. On the following day they collected six shillings and sixpence from another of the Barnet coaches, and nine shillings from the Highgate stage, on their return to town: and this was the whole of the poor booty they obtained this day, at the imminent risk of their lives.

A few days afterwards Caldcough and another of the gang stopped a person of very decent appearance near Hackney, and demanded his money: but the gentleman, bursting into tears, said he was in circumstances of distress, and possessed only eighteen pence; on which, instead of robbing him, they made him a present of half a crown: a proof that sentiments of humanity may not be utterly banished even from the breast of a thief. On their return to town they robbed a man of fourteen shillings, and then went to their old place of retreat.

On the day after this transaction they went to the Red-Lion alehouse, in Aldersgate-Street, where having drunk all day, and being unable to pay the reckoning, they called for more liquor, and then quitted the house, saying that they would soon return. Going immediately towards Islington, they met a gentleman to whom they said that they wanted a small sum to pay their reckoning. On this the gentleman called out thieves! and made all possible resistance; notwithstanding which they robbed him of a gold watch, which they carried to town and pawned, and then going to the alehouse, defrayed the expences of the day.

In a little time after this one of the gang fold the two horses which had been stolen as above-mentioned, and appropriated the money to his own use; after which he went into the country, and spent some time with his relations; but finding it difficult to abstain from his old practices, he wrote to Caldclough, desiring he would meet him at St. Alban's, where it was probable a good booty might be obtained.

Caldclough obeyed the summons; and, on his arrival, found that the scheme was to rob the pack-horses * belonging to the Coventry carrier. The man drinking at a house near St. Alban's, and permitting the horses to go forward, Caldclough and his accomplice, who had hid themselves behind a hedge, rushed out and stopped the horses; and having robbed the packages to the amount of fifty pounds, carried their booty to London, where they disposed of it.

Having dissipated in extravagance the money acquired by this robbery, they went into Hertfordshire to rob a gentleman whom they had learnt was possessed of a considerable sum of money. Getting into the yard near midnight, the owner of the house demanded what business they had there; to which they replied, "Only to go through the yard:" whereupon the gentleman fired a gun, which, though it was loaded with powder only, terrified them so that they decamped without committing the intended robbery.

Caldclough, and one of his accomplices named Robinson, being reduced to circumstances of distress,

* The usual mode of conveying goods from one part of the kingdom to another was formerly by means of pack-horses; but this has given place to road-waggons.

tres, determined to make depredations on the road between London and Kensington. While they were looking out for prey, two gentlemen, named Swaffard and Banks, were observed on the road behind them; but Mr. Swaffard being at some distance before his companion, Caldclough and Robinson, who were provided with hangers, robbed him of some silver: but not till they had first wounded him in a manner shocking to relate. They cut his nose almost from his face, and left him weltering in his blood.

Soon afterwards, Mr. Banks came up; whom they robbed of five guineas; and then hurrying towards Kensington, went over the fields to Chelsea, where they took a boat and crossed the Thames; and walking to Lambeth, took another boat, which carried them to Westminster.

In the mean time Mr. Banks, who had missed his friend, proceeded to Kensington, where he made enquiry for him; but finding that he had not reached that place, he was apprehensive that he might have been murdered; and going back with a gentleman in search of him, they found him in the condition above described.

Mr. Swaffard was immediately removed to the house of a surgeon, where proper care being taken of him, he recovered his health, after a long series of diligent attendance; but his wounds were of such a kind as totally to disfigure the features of his face, his nose having been cut so as to hang over his mouth.

The villains were taken into custody on the very day after the perpetration of this horrid deed, when Robinson being admitted an evidence against his accomplice, he was brought to trial at the next sessions, convicted, and received sentence of death,

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After conviction he seemed to entertain no hopes of a pardon; but, appropriating all his time in contrition for the vices of his past life, prepared for futurity with all the zeal of one who appeared to be a sincere penitent.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 2d of July, 1739, after having made the following speech to the surrounding multitude:

“ I humbly beg that all you young men whom I leave behind me would take warning in time, and avoid bad houses as well as bad company. Remember my dying words, lest some of you come to the same end, which I pray God you never may. What I am now going to suffer is the just punishment for my crimes; for although I did not commit murder, yet I look upon myself equally guilty, as the poor gentleman must have died had he not met with assistance.

“ Were I able to make satisfaction to those whom I have wronged, I would do it; but alas! I cannot, and therefore I pray that they will forgive me. I hope my life will be at least some satisfaction, as I have nothing besides to give; and as I die in charity with all mankind, may the Lord Jesus receive my soul!”

REFLECTIONS.

In the case of this malefactor, as in that of many others, we have a striking instance how extremely penitent a man may be, when his penitence can avail nothing to the injured party. We hope that those who read narratives of this kind, will reflect that the true way to be happy is never to be guilty of such crimes as will lay them under the necessity of such ineffectual repentance.

Vice is gradual in its progress, but certain in its ruinous consequences. The man who once em-

embarks in illicit proceedings knows not to what dreadful lengths he may run. Smaller thefts naturally lead to larger; and murder is very often the unexpected consequence of robbery.

The sure way then to maintain a fair character, and to possess that "peace of mind which passeth all understanding," is to "abstain from all appearance of evil."

Caldclough, by connecting himself with bad company in his youth, was naturally led forward from the commission of one crime to the perpetration of another, till he met with that fate which the repetition and enormity of his offences had deserved. Even children may learn an useful lesson from this tale. The boy who keeps company with wicked boys will become more wicked: every one then should resolve to make the following resolution, in the words of the poet;

Away from fools I'll turn my eyes,
Nor with the scoffers go:
I would be walking with the wise,
That I may wiser grow.

Particulars respecting the singular Case of DAVID ROBERTS, who was Hanged at *Tyburn* for *High Treason*.

THIS malefactor, who was a native of Chepstow in Monmouthshire, was apprenticed to a joiner; but quitting his master's service, he worked some time as a journeyman at the Devizes in Wiltshire, where he married a wife with a fortune of three hundred pounds.

His wife dying in childbed, he remained at the Devizes a considerable time, during which he dissipated all his wife's fortune, except about forty pounds

pounds, with which he came to London, and took lodgings with a widow, who kept a public-house. Roberts soon became so intimate with the widow, that she told him it was necessary he should marry her. He did not hesitate to embrace the proposal, imagining that the marriage would procure him a decent establishment in life; but being frequently arrêsted for debts contracted by his wife previous to the marriage, he determined to abandon her; with which view he sold the household furniture to a broker, and left his wife to provide for herself.

He now engaged in partnership with his brother, who was a carpenter in Southwark, and having saved a considerable sum of money during this connection, he embarked in business for himself, and obtained a large share of credit from the timber-merchants; but when his debts became due, he took lodgings within the rules of the King's Bench, of which place he became a prisoner in order to evade the payment of them.

Even while in this situation he undertook a piece of work by which he made three hundred pounds profit; and might have been a greater gainer, but that he quarrelled with his employer. At this period one Sarah Bristow, who had been transported for a felony, returned after the expiration of a year, and becoming acquainted with Roberts, lived with him as his wife for a considerable time.

He now took his new wife to Bristol, where he rented an inn, and furnished it by the help of those people who would trust him: but one of his London creditors getting notice of the place of his retreat, arrested him; and Roberts standing trial, cast him, on account of some informality in the taking out the writ.

Roberts, however, thought it imprudent to remain in his present situation; and therefore, shipping his effects for London, he and Mrs. Bristow came to town, and lodged again within the rules of the King's Bench, of which Roberts became again a prisoner.

Notwithstanding his situation, he took an inn that was at that time to be let at Coventry; but while he was giving directions for the putting up of a new sign, he was observed by a timber-merchant, named Smith, to whom he owed fifty-five pounds.

Mr. Smith rode forward to another inn, where he learnt that Roberts had taken the house where he had seen him: and, on his return to London, he sent a commission to an attorney to arrest him for the sum above-mentioned. Roberts found means to compromise this affair; but his other creditors learning whither he had retired, it soon became necessary for him to conceal himself.

Roberts thinking it would be unsafe to remain long in Coventry, commissioned Mrs. Bristow to purchase all such goods as she could get on credit, and send them to the inn, with a view to carry them off to some place where they were not known.

After some goods had been obtained in this manner, Roberts was necessitated to make a precipitate retreat, owing to the following circumstance. An attorney and bailiff having procured a search-warrant, employed some dragoons who were quartered in the town, to search Roberts's house, on pretence of finding stolen goods: but the dragoons were no sooner entered than they were followed by the bailiffs, on which Roberts dropped from the window of a room where he

had concealed himself, and escaped through the garden of his next neighbour.

As it now became necessary that he should retire from Coventry, he left Mrs. Bristow, and came to London, directing that she should send the goods she had obtained by a waggon, and direct them to him in a suppositious name.

Pursuant to her instructions, she loaded a waggon with these ill-gotten effects: but some of the creditors having obtained intelligence of what was intended, attached the goods.

Hereupon Mrs. Bristow wrote word to Roberts, giving a short account of what had happened; on which he sent one Carter to obtain a full information respecting the affair: but Carter staying much longer than he was expected to do, Roberts set out for Coventry, notwithstanding the risk to which he knew he exposed himself by appearing in that place.

On his arrival, he found the house stripped of every thing but a small quantity of beer, with some benches and chairs; and observed that Mrs. Bristow and Carter were in a high degree of intimacy. However, he did not stay long to examine into the state of affairs; for the woman told him it would be prudent for him to conceal himself in some retired place till she came to him.

Pursuant to this advice he waited at the extremity of the town more than three hours, when the other parties came to him, and advised him to retire to London with all possible expedition; but did not give him money to defray his expences. He was greatly incensed at this behaviour; but did not express his resentment, as he was fearful of being arrested if he should provoke the other parties.

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He was soon followed to London by Mrs. Bristow and Carter; but as they brought no more money with them than about sixteen pounds, he was exceedingly mortified; however, as he was still in possession of the lease of the house, he knew he could not be legally deprived of it, while he duly paid the land-tax and ground-rent.

Roberts now moved the court of King's-Bench for a rule against his creditors, to shew cause why they had attached his goods; and the court recommending to each party to settle the matter by arbitration, it was awarded that Roberts should receive one hundred and thirty pounds, and give his creditors a bill of sale of his lease and effects: but Roberts not having paid for the fixtures, the owner of them instituted a suit for recovery; and on the day his other creditors took possession of the house, an execution was returned from the court of Common-Pleas.

Another suit arose from this circumstance: “but a writ of enquiry being directed to the sheriff of Coventry, a verdict was found for the creditors under the award, because that order had been made prior to the execution.”

While these matters were depending, Roberts being distressed for cash, borrowed five pounds, for the payment of which Carter was the security; but the debt not being paid when due, Carter was arrested for the money, while Roberts retreated himself in a lodging at Hoxton, where he received the one hundred and thirty pounds decreed him by the award above-mentioned.

Carter soon finding Roberts's place of retreat, a quarrel arose between them: but at length the former asked Roberts to lend him twenty pounds saying he could acquire a fortune by the possession of such a sum; and that he would repay the mo-

ney at twenty shillings a month, and give a good premium for the use of it.

Roberts asking how this money was to be employed to such advantage, the other said it was to purchase a liquid which would dissolve gold; whereupon the former said he would not lend him the money; in revenge for which Carter caused him to be arrested for the five pounds above-mentioned.

Roberts took refuge within the rules of the King's-Bench, while Carter, who had found means to raise money for his purposes, took to the practice of diminishing the coin, in which he was so successful that he soon abounded in cash; on which Roberts became very anxious to know the secret, which the other refused to discover, saying he had been ill-treated in their former transactions.

Carter's method of diminishing the coin was by a chemical preparation; and Roberts imagined he had learnt how to do it, for which purpose he purchased a crucible; but his experiment failed in the first attempt. Hereupon he again sought for Carter, whom he found in company with some other diminishers of the coin, and offered him money to give him the necessary instructions.

Carter took the money, and desired Roberts to wait till he fetched some tools; but in fact he went for two sheriff's officers to arrest him. The transaction had passed in a public-house, and Roberts seeing the bailiffs crossing the street, made his escape by a back window; but, in his hurry, went off with Carter's hat instead of his own.

Having thus escaped from immediate danger, he became apprehensive that Carter might be base enough to indict him for felony; on which he returned the hat, with a letter, earnestly entreat-

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ing a reconciliation : whereupon Carter went to him and told him that, for twenty guineas, he would teach him his art : but Roberts offering a much inferior price, no agreement took place.

Roberts now again took refuge within the rules of the King's Bench ; and having failed obtaining the desired secret, determined on a practice equally dishonest and dangerous, which was that of filing of gold.

Mrs. Bristow still cohabited with him ; and when he had filed off as much dust as was worth ten pounds, he put it into a tobacco-box, under his bed, which she stole, and sold the contents : but after this he obtained a considerable sum of money, by employing a person at half a crown a day, to sell the filings.

After some time, not agreeing with the person whom he had thus employed, he determined to act for himself, and having sold a quantity of dust to a refiner, he went to a public house near Hicks's-Hall, kept by a Mr. Rogers, whom he asked to give him a bank note for some gold. Rogers, on feeling the guineas, found that some of the dust stuck to his fingers ; on which he said ; " What have we got here ? The fellow who filed these guineas ought to be hanged, for doing his business in so clumsy a manner." Without saying more, he stepped out, and procured a constable, who took Roberts into custody : but at length, after detaining him six hours, discharged him on his own authority.

Roberts was no sooner at liberty than he prosecuted the publican and constable in the court of King's-Bench for false imprisonment : but he failed in this suit, and an evidence whom he had subpoenaed in his behalf was committed on a charge of perjury, while the publican was bound

to prosecute Roberts, who taking out a writ of error, to prolong time, lodged privately at the Three Hats, a public-house at Islington.

While he was in this retreat, and forming a design to go to Lisbon, Mrs. Bristow brought him a news-paper, in which his person was described; whereupon they went together to Chatham, where they saw another advertisement, offering a reward for apprehending them both. On this Roberts offered the captain of a ship five guineas to carry them to Dunkirk; but this was refused, on account of the boisterousness of the weather.

Thus disappointed, they repaired to Ramsgate, where they met Mrs. Bristow's brother, who was likewise included in the advertisement, and they all went on board a vessel bound for Calais; but quarrelling among themselves, the captain gave orders that they should be landed at Dover. Provoked by this, Roberts threw the captain into the sea, and if the boat had not been sent to take him up, he must infallibly have been drowned.

The captain was no sooner on board than Roberts took the helm, and steered the vessel to her port; but on their landing, Mrs. Bristow's brother making the Custom-house officers acquainted with Roberts's character, his boxes were searched, and the implements for filing money found; but he escaped to Dunkirk while they were making the search.

At Dunkirk he made an acquaintance with Henry Justice, who having stolen some books at Cambridge, had been transported for the offence. To this man he told the secrets of his trade; but he advised him to decamp, as he would infallibly be pursued from Calais.

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Hereupon Roberts went to Ostend, and sending for Mrs. Bristow to that place, they embarked for England, and took lodgings in Fountain-Court in the Strand, which they quitted after a residence of six weeks.

Roberts could not detach himself from the idea of procuring a subsistence by filching money, and in pursuit of this illicit practice, he took a house at Bath, where he used to work at his occupation during the night.

Going to a chymist's shop one morning to purchase a liquid, he saw a gentleman who knew him; on which he went home immediately, and told Mrs. Bristow that he was apprehensive of being taken into custody. His presages were but too just, for some officers came to his house almost immediately, and conveyed him before a justice of peace, who committed him to prison, and sent notice to London of his being in custody.

During his confinement at Bath, he was supplied with instruments for filing off his irons; but discovery of this affair being made, he was kept in the strictest confinement till he was transmitted to London.

Being brought to his trial at the Old-Bailey, he was convicted on the fullest evidence, and received sentence of death; and after his conviction, till the arrival of the warrant for his execution, he scarcely mentioned any circumstances respecting his conduct; but afterwards, his behaviour was much more explicit.

On the night before his execution he acknowledged, to the keeper of Newgate, that he had murdered his first wife, during her lying-in.

The second wife went to visit him in prison; but he declined seeing her, alledging that her company would only disturb him in his preparations

rations for that awful state on which he was about to enter. As to the rest of his conduct, it was highly becoming his melancholy situation.

He was hanged at Tyburn on the 3d of April, 1739, after behaving with great devotion at the place of execution.

REFLECTIONS.

This offender seems to have been devoid of all the principles of moral honesty. He made no scruple of marrying his second wife from mere motives of interest: and he was equally free to run in debt, without a single view to payment. These circumstances alone would sufficiently mark his character, exclusive of his other, and more enormous crimes.

The man who can deliberately set down to file a guinea must possess a heart of uncommon baseness; for the loss arising from the diminution of the coin will almost always fall on poor people who are unable to bear it.

The legislature has acted wisely in making this a capital offence; and it is pity that any one who is guilty of it should ever escape the hands of justice.

We are sorry to say that the many examples which are made of coiners, and diminishers of money, fail to have their proper effect on the surviving practisers of those fatal arts. No instance can be produced of one man who has followed these professions that was ever happy: and indeed it is impossible that they should be so.

The man who is for ever in terror of the officers of justice, must live a life of unremitting torment; and in the case of these offenders in particular, they labour harder to be miserable, than honest mechanics do to be happy. Those who have had occasion to attend the trials of persons charged with offences of this kind, know that
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the labour of their hands, added to the anxiety of their minds, must render them some of the most wretched of mortals.

These remarks we hope will have their proper influence on the minds of our readers: but if they should fail, we trust that the consideration of the divine vengeance, which infallibly pursues the workers of iniquity, will have its due weight: for the man who makes himself despised by his fellow-creatures, by the very means that render him an object of the anger of God, must endure a state of wretchedness which it is not in the power of language to describe.

Those who are induced to entertain a single thought of committing the crimes above-mentioned, should be earnest in offering up their prayers in these solemn words, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil!"

Account of THOMAS BARKWITH, who was executed at *Tyburn* for a *Highway Robbery*

THE unfortunate youth, whose memoirs we are now about to record, was the descendant of a respectable family in the Isle of Ely. At a very early period of life he was observed to possess a strength of understanding greatly beyond what could be expected at his years; and this determined his father to add to such extraordinary gifts of nature the advantages of a liberal education: nor was the necessary attention omitted to impress upon his mind a just idea of the

principles of religion and the absolute necessity of practical virtue.

Before the young gentleman had arrived at his fourteenth year, he obtained to a great proficiency in the Greek, Latin, French and Italian languages; and he afforded an indisputable proof of the depth of his penetration and the brilliancy of his fancy, in the production of a variety of poetical and prose essays. His figure was pleasing and improved by a graceful deportment; his manner of address was insinuating, and he excelled in the arts of conversation. It will, then, naturally be imagined that these qualifications, added to his extensive knowledge in the several branches of polite literature, could not fail to render him an object of esteem and admiration.

Soon after he had passed his fourteenth year, he received an invitation to visit an aunt residing in the metropolis. He had not been many days at this lady's house, before he became equally conspicuous, throughout the whole circle of her acquaintance, on the score of his mental powers and personal qualifications: and he was dissuaded by his friends from returning into the country, it being their unanimous opinion, that London was, of all others, the place where opportunities would be most likely to occur which the youth might improve to the advancement of his fortune.

A short time after his arrival in the metropolis, he procured a recommendation to a master in chancery of high reputation and extensive practice; and this gentleman appointed him to the superintendance of that department of his business which related to money matters. In this office he acquitted himself entirely to the satisfaction

faction of his employer, who considered him as a youth in whom he might safely repose an unlimited confidence. He possessed the particular esteem of all those who had the happiness of his acquaintance; and it was their common opinion that his fine talents, and great capacity for business, could not fail to introduce him to some considerable station in life.

The gentleman in whose service Barkwith had engaged, being under the necessity of going into Wales, on some business respecting an estate there, he commissioned Barkwith to receive the rents of a number of houses in London.

In the neighbourhood of the solicitor lived a young lady, of whom Barkwith had for some time been passionately enamoured: and immediately upon the departure of the former for Wales, he determined to avail himself of the first opportunity of making a declaration of honourable love.

Though the young lady did not mean to unite herself in marriage with Mr. Barkwith, yet she encouraged his addresses; and to this disingenuous conduct is to be attributed the fatal reverse of his fortune, from the most flattering prospect of acquiring a respectable situation in the world, to the dreadful event of suffering an ignominious death at Tyburn.

So entirely was his attention engrossed by the object of his love, that his master's most important business was wholly neglected: and he appeared to have no object in view but that of ingratiating himself into the esteem of his mistress; to gratify whose extravagance and vanity he engaged in expences greatly disproportioned to his income, by making her valuable presents, and accompanying her to the theatres, balls, assemblies,

and other places of public entertainment. In short, he was continually proposing parties of pleasure; and she had too little discretion to reject such invitations as flattered the levity of her disposition, and yielded satisfaction to her immoderate fondness for scenes of gaiety.

Upon the return of the solicitor, he found the affairs which he had entrusted to Barkwith, in a very embarrassed situation; and upon searching into the cause of this unexpected and alarming circumstance, it was discovered that the infatuated youth had embezzled a considerable sum. The gentleman having made a particular enquiry into the conduct of Barkwith, received such information as left but little hopes of his reformation; and therefore he, though reluctantly, yielded to the dictates of prudence, and resolved to employ him no longer: but, after having dismissed him from his service, he omitted no opportunity of shewing him instances of kindness and respect; and generously exerted his endeavours to render him offices of friendship, and promote his interest on every occasion that offered.

Barkwith now hired chambers, in order to transact law business on his own account; but as he had not been admitted an attorney, he was under the necessity of acting under the sanction of another person's name; whence it may be concluded that his practice was not very extensive. He might, however, by a proper attention to his business, and a moderate œconomy in his expences; have retrieved his affairs in a short time: but unhappily his intercourse with the young lady was still continued, and he thought no sacrifice too great for convincing her of the ardour of his affection.

He

He resided at his chambers about six months. Being arrested for a considerable sum, he put in bail to the action; and though he paid the money before the writ became returnable, his credit received a terrible shock from the news of his late misfortune being circulated among his creditors, who had not hitherto entertained the least suspicion of his being under pecuniary difficulties: but they now became exceedingly importunate for him immediately to discharge their several demands.

Thus distressed, he made application to the persons whom he considered as his most valuable friends: but his hopes were disappointed, the whole he obtained amounting to a mere trifle: and what was particularly mortifying to him was, the repulse he met with from several on whom he had conferred considerable obligations.

His necessities were so pressing as to drive him almost to desperation: but it must be observed that his greatest distress was occasioned by the reflection that he was no longer in a capacity to indulge his mistress in that perpetual succession of pleasurable amusements to which she had been so long familiarized.

The idea that poverty would render him contemptible in the opinion of his acquaintance, and that he should be no longer able to gratify the inclinations of the object on whom his warmest inclinations were fixed, was too mortifying for the pride of Barkwith to endure; and therefore he determined upon a desperate expedient, by which he vainly imagined that he should be enabled to provide for some pressing exigencies, flattering himself that before his expected temporary supply would be exhausted, a favourable
turn

turn would take place in his affairs, and remove every incitement to a repetition of guilt.

Barkwith took horse in the morning of the 13th of November, pretending that he was going to Denham in Buckinghamshire, in order to transact some important business in relation to an estate which was to devolve to a young lady, then in her minority. It is not known whether he went to Denham; but about four o'clock in the afternoon he stopped a coach upon Hounslow-heath, and robbed a gentleman who was in the vehicle of a sum in silver not amounting to twenty shillings.

In a short time a horseman came up, who was informed by the coachman that his master had been robbed by Barkwith, who was yet in sight. The horseman immediately rode to an adjacent farm-house, where he procured pistols and persuaded a person to accompany him in search of the highwayman, whom, in about a quarter of an hour, they overtook, being separated from him only by a hedge. The gentleman now, pointing a pistol at Barkwith, said, if he did not surrender, he would instantly shoot him; upon which the robber urged his horse to the creature's utmost speed, and continued to gain so much ground, that he would have escaped had he not alighted to recover his hat, which had blown off: he regained the saddle, but soon observed that the delay occasioned by dismounting had enabled his pursuers nearly to overtake him, he again quitted his horse, hoping to elude the pursuit by crossing the fields.

In order to facilitate his escape he disencumbered himself of his great coat, but this circumstance raising the suspicion of some labouring people

people near the spot, they advanced to secure him, when he snapped two pistols at them; neither of them was loaded, but he thought the sight of fire-arms might perhaps deter the countrymen from continuing their pursuit. His spirits being violently agitated, his strength nearly exhausted, and there appearing but little probability of effecting an escape, he at length surrendered, saying to the people who surrounded him, that he was a gentleman heavily oppressed with misfortunes, and supplicating in the most pathetic terms that they would favour his escape: but his entreaties had no effect.

He was properly secured during that night and the next morning conducted before a magistrate for examination. He was ordered to London, where he was re-examined, and then committed to Newgate.

He was tried at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, and condemned to suffer death. While he remained in Newgate, he conducted himself in a manner perfectly consistent with his unhappy circumstances: his unpretending and quiet behaviour secured him from the insults of his fellow-prisoners; and upon such of them as were not absolutely callous to the stings of conscience, the sincerity of his repentance had a favourable effect.

He was conveyed to Tyburn, on the 21st of December, 1739. He prayed to Almighty God with great fervency, and exhorted young people carefully to avoid engaging in expences disproportioned to their incomes; saying that the perpetrator of villainy, however successful, was continually in a state of insupportable misery, through the silent upbraidings of an internal monitor; and that though justice was, for a time, eluded,

cluded, imagination never failed to anticipate all the horrors attendant on public ignominy and a violent death. After this he was launched into eternity.

REFLECTIONS.

A false pride seems to have been the distinguishing characteristic of the unhappy youth who is the subject of the above narrative. He could not condescend to abridge his usual expences, lest his mistress should suspect his liberality. Had he candidly explained to her the state of his affairs, it is more than probable that she would have declined the expectation of being indulged in expensive amusements; but had she persisted in her unreasonable desires, he would have been relieved from the infatuation of an ill-placed affection; for he was a man of too much discernment to remain the dupe of a woman avowedly acting from mercenary principles, and consequently destitute of those sentiments of tenderness and delicacy which are inseparable from real love, a passion that cannot exist independent of an anxious solicitude for the happiness of its object.

It is to be lamented that when we have once entered the path of vice, something in our nature impells us to go forward with a force that, to be successfully opposed, requires an uncommon effort of resolution. Doctor Goldsmith says, "That single effort by which we stop short in the downhill path to perdition, is itself a greater exertion of virtue, than a hundred acts of justice."

Let not the most flattering prospect of present convenience tempt us to hazard the slightest imputation on our integrity; for, by familiarity, the hideous aspect of vice will cease to be disgusting: who can listen to her dictates, and with safety say, "So far will I go, and no farther?"

We

We shall here take the liberty of apprizing the younger part of our female readers of the terrible consequences that may ensue from encouraging extravagance in youth of the other sex. During the time of courtship, the lady expects to be occasionally complimented with presents, and to partake of the fashionable amulements. If her lover is in a dependent situation, it is necessary that she should exercise the virtue of self-denial by rejecting his invitations, if there appears the least ground for an apprehension that a compliance will incur an expence too considerable for his income to afford. Almost every consideration must of necessity yield to the pleasing task of contributing to the satisfaction of an admired object. Pride will seldom permit us to acknowledge poverty: and rather than labour under the suspicion of avarice, the severity of virtue may relax, and a generous mind may, by the violence of passion, be precipitated beyond the bounds of discretion, and involved in irretrievable destruction.

Account of the Life and Trial of EDWARD JOINES, who was Hanged at *Tyburn*, for the *Murder* of his *Wife*.

THE parents of Edward Joines were respectable house-keepers in Ratcliff-high-way, who, being desirous that the boy should be qualified for business, placed him under the direction of the master of a day school in Goodman's Fields, where he continued a regular attendance about five years, but without gaining any considerable improvement.

Soon after he had completed his fourteenth year he was removed from the school, and his father informed him that he was endeavouring to find some reputable tradesman who would take him as an apprentice : but the youth expressed an aversion to any occupation but that of a gardener. Finding that he had conceived a strong prepossession in favour of this business; they bound him to gardener at Stepney, whom he served in an industrious and regular manner for the space of seven years; and he, for some time afterwards, continued with the same master in the capacity of a journeyman, his parents being so reduced through misfortunes, that they could not supply him with money to carry on business on his own account.

A short time after the expiration of his apprenticeship, he married a milk-woman, by whom he had seven children in the course of twenty years, during which time he lived in an amicable manner with his wife, earning a tolerable subsistence by honest industry.

His children all died in their infancy : and upon the decease of his wife he procured employment at Bromley; and that he might lose but little time in going to, and returning from his work, he hired a lodging at the lower end of Poplar, in a house kept by a widow, with whom he in a few days, contracted a criminal familiarity. They had lived together about a twelvemonth, jointly defraying the household expences, when she more frequently than usual gave way to the natural violence of her temper, threatening that he should not continue in the house unless he would marry her; which he consented to do, and adjourning to the Fleet, the ceremony was there performed.

After

After their marriage their disagreements became more frequent and violent; and upon the wife's daughter leaving her service, and coming to reside with them, she united with her mother in pursuing every measure that could tend to render the life of Joines insupportably miserable. Upon his return from work one evening, a disagreement, as usual, took place, and being aggravated by her abusive language, he pushed her from him, and, falling against the grate, her arm was much scorched. In consequence of this she swore the peace against him: but when they appeared before the magistrate who had granted the warrant for the apprehension of Joines, they were advised to compromise their disagreement, to which they mutually agreed.

By an accidental fall Mrs. Joines broke her arm, about a month after the above affair; but timely application being made to a surgeon, she in a short time, had every reason to expect a perfect and speedy recovery.

Joines being at a public-house on a Sunday afternoon, the landlord observed his daughter-in-law carrying a pot of porter from another ale-house, and mentioned the circumstance to him, adding that the girl had been served with a like quantity at his house but a short time before. Being intoxicated, Joines took fire at what the publican had imprudently said, and immediately went towards the house, which was on the opposite side of the street, with an intention of preventing his wife from drinking the liquor. He struck the pot out of her hand, and then seizing the arm that had been broke, twisted it till the bone again separated.

The fracture was again reduced, but such unfavourable symptoms appeared that an amputa-

tion was judged necessary for preserving the life of the patient. In a short time afterwards, however, she was supposed to be in a fair way of recovery; and calling one day at the gardens where her husband was employed, she told his fellow-labourers that she had great hopes of her arm being speedily cured, adding that she was then able to move her fingers with but very little difficulty.

The hopes of this unfortunate woman were falsely grounded; for on the following day she was so ill that her life was judged to be very precarious. She sent for Joines from his work: and upon his coming to her bed-side, he asked, if she had any accusation to alledge against him; upon which, shaking her head, she said, she would forgive him, and hoped the world would do so too. She expired the next night, and in the morning he gave some directions respecting the funeral, and then went to work in the gardens as usual, not entertaining the least suspicion that he should be accused as the cause of his wife's death: but upon his return in the evening he was apprehended on suspicion of murder.

An inquest being summoned to enquire whether the woman was murdered, or died according to the course of nature, it appeared in evidence, that her death was occasioned by the second fracture of her arm: the jury therefore brought in a verdict of wilful murder against Joines, who was, in consequence, committed to Newgate in order for trial.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, Joines was arraigned on an indictment for the wilful murder of his wife. In the course of the trial it appeared that the prisoner had frequently forced the deceased into the street, at late hours of the night, without regard to her being without

out cloathes, or the severity of the weather. The surgeon who attended her deposed, that a gangrene appeared on her arm in consequence of its being broke the second time, which was indisputably the cause of her death.

Near three months had elapsed from the time of her arm being first broke to that of her decease: but not more than ten days passed from the second fracture to the consequent mortification. The law expresses that, if a person violently wounded, dies within twelve calendar months, the offender causing such wound or wounds shall be deemed guilty of a capital felony. As it was evident that his wife died in consequence of his cruelty, within the time limited by law, Joines was pronounced to be guilty of murder, and sentenced to suffer death.

During the confinement of Joines in Newgate, he did not appear to entertain a proper sense of his guilt. As his wife did not die immediately after the fracture of her arm, it was with difficulty he could be persuaded that the jury had done him justice in finding him guilty of murder. He had but a very imperfect notion of the principles of religion, but the ordinary of the prison took great pains to inspire him with a just sense of his duty towards his Creator. Though he was distressed for all the necessaries of life during the greatest part of his confinement, his daughter-in-law, who had taken possession of his house and effects, neglected either to visit him, or afford him any kind of assistance; and he was violently enraged against the young woman on account of this behaviour.

Joines was hanged at Tyburn, on the 21st of December, 1739.

The

REFLECTIONS.

The fate of this malefactor and his wife afford a striking lesson to teach the necessity of avoiding family dissensions, from which the most terrible effects are frequently known to arise. Mrs. Joines was a woman of violent passions, which, instead of endeavouring to curb, she indulged to the utmost extravagance, though she could not be ignorant that during her paroxysms of rage her life was in momentary danger from her husband, whose natural ferocity of disposition she increased by perpetual ill treatment.

It will scarcely be denied that disagreement in the marriage state generally arise from trifling causes. If one of the parties, then, could command sufficient forbearance to yield to the implacability of the other, before the dispute ran to any height, the amiable condescension would inspire a virtuous emulation to avoid domestic animosities.

Circumstantial Account of the extraordinary Exploits of MARY YOUNG, alias *Jenny Diver*, who was executed for *Privately Stealing*.

THE north of Ireland gave birth to Mary Young, whose parents were in indigent circumstances; and they dying while she was in a state of infancy, she had no recollection of them.

At about ten years of age she was taken into the family of an ancient gentlewoman who had known her father and mother, and who caused her to be instructed in reading, writing and needle-work; and in the latter she attained to a proficiency unusual to girls of her age.

Soon

Soon after she had arrived to her fifteenth year, a young man, servant to a gentleman who lived in the same neighbourhood, made pretensions of love to her : but the old lady being apprized of his views, declared that she would not consent to their marriage, and positively forbid him to repeat his visits at her house.

Notwithstanding the great care and tenderness with which she was treated, Mary formed the resolution of deserting her generous benefactor, and of directing her course towards the metropolis of England ; and the only obstacle to this design was the want of money for her support till she could follow some honest means of earning a subsistence.

She had no very strong prepossession in favour of the young man who had made a declaration of love to her ; but she, determining to make his passion subservient to the purpose she had conceived, promised to marry him, on condition of his taking her to London. He joyfully embraced this proposal, and immediately engaged for a passage in a vessel bound for Liverpool.

A short time before the vessel was to sail, the young man robbed his master of a gold watch and eighty guineas, and then joined the companion of his flight, who was already on board the ship, vainly imagining that his infamously acquired booty would contribute to the happiness he should enjoy with his expected bride. The ship arrived at the destined port in two days : and Mary being indisposed in consequence of her voyage, her companion hired a lodging in the least frequented part of the town, where they lived a short time under the characters of man and wife, but avoiding all intercourse with their neighbours ; the man being apprehensive that

measures

measures would be pursued for rendering him amenable to justice.

Mary being restored to health, they agreed for a passage in a waggon that was to set out for London in a few days. On the day preceding that fixed for their departure they accidentally called at a public-house, and the man being observed by a messenger dispatched in pursuit of him from Ireland, he was immediately taken into custody. Mary, who a few hours before his apprehension, had received ten guineas from him, voluntarily accompanied him to the mayor's house, where he acknowledged himself guilty of the crime alledged against him, but without giving the least intimation that she was an accessory in his guilt. He being committed to prison, Mary sent him all his cloathes, and part of the money she had received from him, and the next day took her place in the waggon for London. In a short time her companion was sent to Ireland, where he was tried and condemned to suffer death: but his sentence was changed to that of transportation.

Soon after her arrival in London, Mary contracted an acquaintance with one of her countrywomen, named Anne Murphy, by whom she was invited to partake of a lodging in Long-Acre. Here she endeavoured to obtain a livelihood by her needle, but not being able to procure sufficient employment, in a little time her situation became truly deplorable.

Murphy intimated to her that she could introduce her to a mode of life that would prove exceedingly lucrative; adding that the most profound secrecy was required. The other expressed an anxious desire of learning the means of extricating herself from the difficulties under which

she

she laboured, and made a solemn declaration that she would never divulge what Murphy should communicate. In the evening Murphy introduced her to a number of men and women assembled in a kind of club, near St. Giles's. These people gained their living by cutting off women's pockets, and stealing watches, &c. from men in the avenues of the theatres, and at other places of public resort; and on the recommendation of Murphy they admitted Mary a member of the society.

After Mary's admission, they dispersed, in order to pursue their illegal occupation; and the booty obtained that night consisted of eighty pounds in cash and a valuable gold watch. As Mary was not yet acquainted with the art of thieving, she was not admitted to an equal share of the night's produce, but it was agreed that she should have ten guineas. She now regularly applied two hours every day in qualifying herself for an expert thief, by attending to the instructions of experienced practitioners; and in a short time she was distinguished as the most ingenious and successful adventurer of the whole gang.

A young fellow of genteel appearance, who was a member of the club, was singled out by Mary as the partner of her bed; and they cohabited for a considerable time as husband and wife.

In a few months our heroine became so expert in her profession as to acquire great consequence among her associates, who, as we conceive, distinguished her by the appellation of Jenny Diver, on account of her remarkable dexterity; and by that name we shall call her in the succeeding pages of this narrative.

Jenny, accompanied by one of her female accomplices, joined the crowd at the entrance of a place of worship in the Old Jewry, where a popular divine was to preach, and observing a young gentleman with a diamond ring on his finger, she held out her hand, which he kindly received in order to assist her; and at this juncture she contrived to get possession of the ring, without the knowledge of the owner; after which she slipped behind her companion, and heard the gentleman say that, as there was no probability of gaining admittance he would return. Upon his leaving the meeting he missed his ring, and mentioned his loss to the persons who were near him, adding that he suspected it to be stolen by a woman whom he had endeavoured to assist in the crowd: but as the thief was unknown, she escaped.

The above robbery was considered as such an extraordinary proof of Jenny's superior address that her associates determined to allow her an equal share of all their booties, even though she was not present when they were obtained.

In a short time after the above exploit she procured a pair of false hands and arms to be made; and, concealing her real ones under her cloaths, and putting something beneath her stays, to make herself appear as if in a state of pregnancy, she repaired on a Sunday evening to the place of worship above-mentioned in a sedan chair, one of the gang going before to procure a seat among the genteeler part of the congregation, and another attending in the character of a footman.

Jenny being seated between two elderly ladies, each of whom had a gold watch by her side, she conducted herself with great seeming devotion; but when the service was nearly concluded, she seized the opportunity, while the ladies were stand-

standing up, of stealing their watches, which she delivered to an accomplice in an adjoining pew. The devotions being ended, the congregation were preparing to depart, when the ladies discovered their loss, and a violent clamour ensued: one of the injured parties exclaimed that her watch must have been taken either by the “devil or the pregnant woman;” on which the other said, she “could vindicate the pregnant lady, whose hands, she was sure, had not been removed from her lap during the whole time of her being in the pew.”

Flushed with the success of the above adventure, our heroine determined to pursue her good fortune; and as another sermon was to be preached the same evening, she adjourned to an adjacent public-house, where without either pain or difficulty, she soon reduced the protuberance of her waist, and having entirely changed her dress, she returned to the meeting, where she had not remained long before she picked a gentleman's pocket of a gold watch, with which she escaped unsuspected.

Her accomplices also were industrious and successful; for on a division of the booty obtained this evening, they each received thirty guineas. Jenny had now obtained an ascendancy over the whole gang, who, conscious of her superior skill in the arts of thieving, came to a resolution of yielding an exact obedience to her directions.

Jenny again assumed the appearance of a pregnant woman, and attended by an accomplice, as a footman, went towards St. James's Park on a day when the king was going to the House of Lords, and there being a great number of persons between the Park and Spring Gardens, she purposely slipped down, and was instantly sur-

rounded by many of both sexes, who were emulous to afford her assistance: but, affecting to be in violent pain, she intimated to them that she was desirous of remaining on the ground till she should be somewhat recovered. As she expected, the crowd increased, and her pretended footman and a female accomplice were so industrious as to obtain two diamond girdle-buckles, a gold watch, a gold snuff-box, and two purses, containing together upwards of forty guineas.

The girdle-buckles, watch, and snuff-box were the following day advertised, and a considerable reward was offered, and a promise given that no questions should be asked the party who should restore the property. Anne Murphy offered to carry the things to the place mentioned in the advertisement, saying the reward offered exceeded what they would produce by sale: but to this Jenny objected, observing that she might be traced, and the association utterly ruined. She called a meeting of the whole gang, and informed them that she was of opinion that it would be more prudent to sell the things even at one half of their real value than to return them to the owners for the sake of the reward; as, if they pursued the latter measure, they should subject themselves to great hazard of being apprehended. Her associates coincided entirely in Jenny's sentiments; and the property was taken to Duke's Place, and there sold to a Jew.

Two of the gang being confined to their lodgings by illness, Jenny and the man with whom she cohabited, generally went in company in search of adventures. They went together to Burr-Street, Wapping, and observing a genteel house, the man, who acted as Jenny's footman, knocked at the door, and saying that his mistress was

was on a sudden taken extremely ill, begged she might be admitted: this was readily complied with, and while the mistress of the house and her maid-servant were gone up stairs for such things as they imagined would afford relief to the supposed sick woman, she opened a drawer, and stole sixty guineas; and after this, while the mistress was holding a smelling-bottle to her nose, she picked her pocket of a purse, which, however, did not contain money to any considerable amount. In the mean time the pretended footman, who had been ordered into the kitchen, stole six silver table spoons, a pepper-box, and a saltcellar. Jenny pretending to be somewhat recovered, expressed the most grateful acknowledgments to the lady, and, saying she was the wife of a capital merchant in Thames-Street, invited her in the most pressing terms to dinner on an appointed day, and then went away in a hackney-coach, which by her order had been called to the door by her pretended servant.

She practised a variety of felonies of a similar nature in different parts of the metropolis and its adjacencies: but the particulars of the above transaction being inserted in the news-papers, people were so effectually cautioned that our adventurer was under the necessity of employing her invention upon the discovery of other methods of committing depredations on the public.

The parties whose illness we have mentioned being recovered, it was resolved that the whole gang should go to Bristol, in search of adventures during the fair which is held in that city every summer; but being unacquainted with the place, they deemed it good policy to admit into their society a man who had long subsisted there by villainous practices.

Being

Being arrived at the place of destination, Jenny and Anne Murphy assumed the characters of merchants wives, the new member and another of the gang appeared as country traders, and our heroine's favourite retained his former character of footman. They took lodgings at different inns, and agreed that if any of them should be apprehended the others should endeavour to procure their release by appearing to their characters, and representing them as people of reputation in London. They had arrived to such a proficiency in their illegal occupation that they were almost certain of accomplishing every scheme they suggested; and when it was inconvenient to make use of words, they were able to convey their meaning to each other by winks, nods, and other intimations.

Being one day in the fair, they observed a west-country clothier giving a sum of money to his servant, and heard him direct the man to deposit it in a bureau. They followed the servant, and one of them fell down before him, expecting that he would also fall, and that, as there was a great crowd, the money might be easily secured. Though the man fell into the channel, they were not able to obtain their expected booty, and therefore they had recourse to the following stratagem: one of the gang asked whether his master had not lately ordered him to carry home a sum of money; to which the other replied in the affirmative. The sharper then told him he must return to his master, who had purchased some goods, and waited to pay for them.

The countryman followed him to Jenny's lodging, and being introduced to her, she desired him to be seated, saying his master was gone on some business in the neighbourhood, but had left orders for him to wait till his return. She urged him to

to drink a glass of wine, but the poor fellow repeatedly declined her offers with awkward simplicity; the pretended footman having taught him to believe her a woman of great wealth and consequence. However, her encouraging solicitations conquered his bashfulness, and he drank till he became intoxicated. Being conducted into another apartment he was soon fast locked in the arms of sleep, and while in that situation he was robbed of the money he had received from his master, which proved to be a hundred pounds. They were no sooner in possession of the cash than they discharged the demand of the inn-keeper, and set out in the first stage for London.

Soon after their return to town, Jenny and her associates went to London-Bridge in the dusk of the evening, and observing a lady standing at a door to avoid the carriages, a number of which were passing, one of the men went up to her, and, under pretence of giving her assistance, seized both her hands, which he held till his accomplices had rifled her pockets of a gold snuff-box, a silver case, containing a set of instruments, and thirty guineas in cash.

On the following day as Jenny and an accomplice, in the character of a footman, were walking through 'Change Alley she picked a gentleman's pocket of a Bank note for two hundred pounds, for which she received one hundred and thirty pounds from a Jew, with whom the gang had very extensive connections.

Our heroine now hired a real footman, and her favourite, who had long acted in that character, assumed the appearance of a gentleman. She hired lodgings in the neighbourhood of Covent-Garden, that she might more conveniently attend the theatres. She proposed to her associates to

reserve a tenth part of the general produce for the support of such of the gang as might through illness be rendered incapable of following their iniquitous occupations : and to this they readily assented.

Jenny dressed herself in an elegant manner and went to the theatre one evening when the king was to be present ; and during the performance she attracted the particular attention of a young gentleman of fortune from Yorkshire, who declared, in the most passionate terms, that she had made an absolute conquest of his heart, and earnestly solicited the favour of attending her home. She at first declined a compliance, saying she was newly married, and that the appearance of a stranger might alarm her husband. At length she yielded to his entreaty, and they went together in a hackney-coach, which set the young gentleman down in the neighbourhood where Jenny lodged, after he had obtained an appointment to visit her in a few days, when she said her husband would be out of town.

Upon Jenny's joining her companions she informed them that while she remained at the play-house she was only able to steal a gold snuff-box ; and they appeared to be much dissatisfied on account of her ill success : but their good humour returned upon learning the circumstances of the adventure with the young gentleman, which they had no doubt would prove exceedingly profitable.

The day of appointment being arrived, two of the gang appeared equipped in elegant liveries, and Anne Murphy acted as waiting-maid. The gentleman came in the evening, having a gold-headed cane in his hand, a sword with a gold hilt by his side, and wearing a gold watch in his pocket, and a diamond ring on his finger.

Being introduced to her bed-chamber, she contrived to steal her lover's ring; and he had not been many minutes undressed before Anne Murphy rapped at the door, which being opened, she said, with an appearance of the utmost consternation, that her master was returned from the country. Jenny affecting to be under a violent agitation of spirits, desired the gentleman to cover himself entirely with the bed-cloaths, saying she would convey his apparel into another room, so that, if her husband came there, nothing would appear to awaken his suspicion; adding that, under pretence of indisposition, she would prevail upon her husband to sleep in another bed, and then return to the arms of her lover.

The cloaths being removed, a consultation was held, when it was agreed by the gang that they should immediately pack up all their moveables and decamp with their booty, which, exclusive of the cane, watch, sword and ring, amounted to an hundred guineas.

The amorous youth waited in a state of the utmost impatience till morning, when he rang the bell, which brought the people of the house to the chamber-door, but they could not gain admittance, the fair fugitive having turned the lock and taken away the key; but the door being forced open, an eclaircissement ensued. The gentleman represented in what manner he had been treated, but the people of the house were deaf to his expostulations, and threatened to circulate the adventure throughout the town, unless he would indemnify them for the loss they had sustained. Rather than hazard the exposure of his character, he agreed to discharge the debt Jenny had contracted: and dispatched a messenger for

cloaths and money, that he might take leave of a house of which he had sufficient reason to regret having been an inhabitant.

Our heroine's share of the produce of the above adventure amounted to seventy pounds. This infamous association was now become so notorious a pest to society, that they judged it prudent to leave the metropolis, where they were apprehensive they could not long remain concealed from justice. They practised a variety of stratagems with great success in different parts of the country: but, upon re-visiting London, Jenny was committed to Newgate, on a charge of having picked a gentleman's pocket; for which she was sentenced to transportation.

She remained in the above prison near four months, during which time she employed a considerable sum in the purchase of stolen effects. When she went on board the transport-vessel she shipped a quantity of goods, nearly sufficient to load a waggon. The property she possessed ensured her great respect and every possible convenience and accommodation during the voyage: and on her arrival in Virginia she disposed of her goods, and for some-time lived in great splendour and elegance.

She soon found that America was a country where she could expect but little emolument from the practices she had so successfully followed in England; and therefore she employed every art that she was mistress of to ingratiate herself into the esteem of a young gentleman who was preparing to embark on board a vessel bound for the port of London. He became much enamoured of her, and brought her to England: but while the ship lay at Gravesend, she robbed him of all the property she could get into her possession, and

pretending an indisposition, intimated a desire of going on shore, in which her admirer acquiesced; but she was no sooner on land than she made a precipitate retreat.

She now travelled through several parts of the country, and by her usual wicked practices obtained many considerable sums. At length she returned to London, but was not able to find her former accomplices.

She now frequented the Royal Exchange, the theatres, London Bridge, and other places of public resort, and committed innumerable depositions on the public. Being detected in picking a gentleman's pocket upon London Bridge, she was taken before a magistrate, to whom she declared that her name was Jane Webb, and by that appellation she was committed to Newgate.

On her trial a gentleman, who had detected her in the very act of picking the prosecutor's pocket, deposed, that a person had applied to him, offering fifty pounds on condition that he should not appear in support of the prosecution: and a lady swore, that on the day she committed the offence for which she stood indicted, she saw her pick the pockets of more than twenty different people. The record of her former conviction was not produced in court; and therefore she was arraigned for privately stealing; and on the clearest evidence the jury pronounced her guilty. The property being valued at less than one shilling, she was sentenced to transportation.

A twelvemonth had not elapsed before she returned from transportation a second time; and on her arrival in London she renewed her former practices.

A lady going from Sherborn-Lane to Walbrooke was accosted by a man who took her

hand, seemingly as if to assist her in crossing some planks that were placed over the channel for the convenience of passengers: but he squeezed her fingers with so much force as to give her great pain, and in the mean time Jenny picked her pocket of thirteen shillings and a penny. The gentlewoman, conscious of being robbed, seized the thief by the gown, and she was immediately conducted to the compter. She was examined the next day by the lord mayor, who committed her to Newgate in order for trial.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey she was tried on an indictment for privately stealing, and the jury brought in the verdict, "guilty;" in consequence of which she received sentence of death.

After conviction she seemed sincerely to repent of the course of iniquity in which she had so long persisted, punctually attending prayers in the chapel, and employing great part of her time in private devotions. The day preceding that on which she was executed she sent for the woman who nursed her child, then about three years old, and after informing her that there was a person who would pay for the infant's maintenance, earnestly entreated that it might be carefully instructed in the duties of religion, and guarded from all temptations to wickedness, and then acknowledging that she had long been a daring offender against the laws both of God and man, entreated the woman to pray for the salvation of her soul, then took her leave, seeming to be deeply impressed with sentiments of contrition.

On the following morning she appeared to be in a serene state of mind: but being brought into the press-yard, the executioner approached to put the halter about her, when her fortitude abated:

abated: but in a short time her spirits were again tolerably composed.

She was conveyed to Tyburn in a mourning-coach, being attended by a clergyman, to whom she declared her firm belief in all the principles of the Protestant religion.

At the place of execution she employed a considerable time in fervent prayer; and then her life was resigned a sacrifice to those laws which she had most daringly violated.

She was executed on the 18th of March, 1740; and her remains were, by her particular desire, interred in St. Pancras church-yard.

We may, perhaps, fix the most dangerous period of life to be between the years of sixteen and twenty. As we approach towards maturity we grow impatient of controul, regardless of all advice that does not flatter the prevailing humour, and direct all our attention to a state of independency, which youthful imagination represents as the summit of human felicity, where no inconvenience can obtrude but such as may, without difficulty, be repelled by the mere efforts of our own resolution.

The advice of a parent sinks into the mind with double weight: but we should allow the due force to such as is offered by those who are unconnected with us in the ties of blood. If the conduct that is recommended to us points to the happiness of life, what folly is it to neglect the sacrifice of idle inclination; the indulgence of which will yield but a slight and temporary gratification, though, it may, perhaps, prove the source of severe and long regret.

There are those who censure the laws of these kingdoms as being of too sanguinary a complexion. Be it admitted that there is something extremely

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR.

tremely dreadful in the idea of depriving a fellow-creature of existence at a time when the weight of his sins is more than sufficient to sink him into everlasting perdition: but, as partial favour must always give way to considerations for the public good, it should be remembered that the lives of individuals are not sacrificed so much for the sake of punishing them for the offences of which they have been guilty, as with a view of making them public examples for the discountenance of vice. Justice may, for a time, be eluded, and no inconvenience may have been sustained by the injured party, who, though entertaining no private animosity, but even tenderly compassionating the offender, will be induced, by his regard to the public, to enforce the law, which can never lose the power to operate. How dangerous, then, must be the situation of those who have been guilty of acts of delinquency! The dread of a violent and disgraceful death, and all the horrors of conscious guilt must continually rush upon their minds, and render them miserable beyond all the powers of expression.

Persons who, having infringed the laws of their country, are committed to prison, too frequently are known to employ their time in a very unprofitable manner. How can this conduct be accounted for but by supposing that they cherish the expectation of an acquittal? No circumstances in life are so desperate as to exclude the hope of a favourable change of fortune. In support of this assertion it need only be said, that an instance cannot be produced where the most notorious offender has, even at the place of execution, declined the thoughts of a reprieve.

To consider the terrible situation of a condemned prisoner must unquestionably prove distressing
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in a peculiar degree to a humane mind. The unhappy object stands tottering on the verge of eternity, and the dreadful prospect wholly incapacitates him for making that preparation which is necessary to so important a change; for it is a reasonable supposition that under such alarming circumstances the mind must be so violently agitated as to be deprived of the power of exerting its usual functions; and there is too much reason to apprehend that, when repentance is thus long delayed, there will be but a feeble support for the hope of its efficacy. Therefore we should employ the short space between this life and eternity in yielding a perfect obedience to the Divine will: no opportunity should be neglected of making application to the Almighty power for obtaining forgiveness of those offences of which we have been guilty in daring to insult his sacred laws; for death is cloathed in terrors, which the man possessed of the utmost fortitude of which human nature is capable cannot behold with calmness, even when his mind is undisturbed by the upbraidings of a guilty conscience.

Disgusted at the prudent conduct of the old lady in discountenancing her amour with the footman, the unfortunate young woman, whose memoirs are recorded in the preceding narrative, resolved to desert her benevolent patroness, from whom she had experienced all the tenderness of maternal affection: and this act of indiscretion led to those crimes which were followed by an untimely and ignominious death. Hence, then, it appears that we cannot employ too much solicitude for avoiding a conduct that conscience cannot entirely approve.

It seems to be a failing in our nature that when we have once transgressed the bounds of virtue,
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every new temptation to vice is considered with less abhorrence. Let us, then, be careful to check the first impulse to wickedness, and rest firmly assured, that from a clear conscience will inevitably result that supreme happiness which the accidents of life can never disturb, and which can only be exceeded by the inexpressible blessings of a future state; while guilt is attended by continual alarms, anxieties, and apprehensions; and threatened with the eternal vengeance of an offended God!

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.



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